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JOHN BULL

Vol. XI. No. 290. SATURDAY, DECEMBER 23, 1911. ONE PENNY

[Registered at the G.P.O. as a Newspaper.]

For meaning of this No. see Page iii. of cover.

The world is a bundle of hay;
Mankind are the asses who pull;
Each tugs it a different way,
And the greatest of all is John Bull

—BYRON.

Edited by
HORATIO BOTTOMLEY.

HUGE FOOTBALL PRIZES!

SEE

NEXT WEEK'S

JOHN BULL

CLEMAK Safety Razor 5/-

The Clemak Safety Razor—at 5s.—is Made as Well and Shaves as Well as any Guinea Safety Razor.

. . . Note how carefully it is made—the perfection of every detail—its beautiful finish. Look at the blade, feel its keen cutting edge. No other blade could shave your beard more easily than that.

. . . Now put the **CLEMAK** side by side with any other Safety Razor offered at a Guinea. You will then see for yourself that it is in every way the equal of the other Razor—and costs you 16/- less to buy. Then why pay a guinea?

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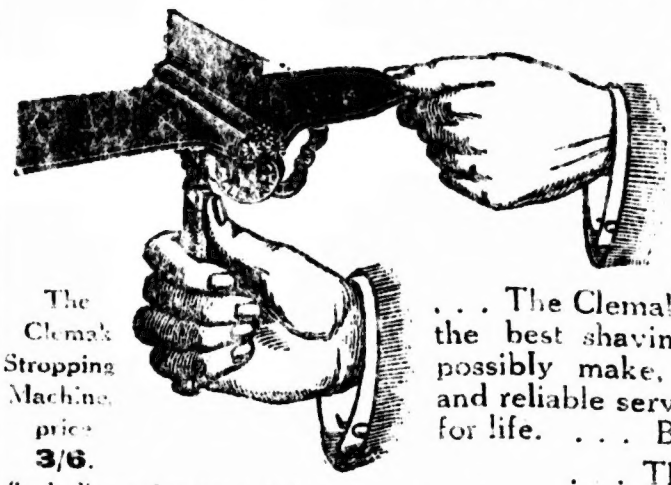

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. . . The Clemak Safety Razor and the Clemak Stropper is a perfect Shaving Combination. They cost together 8s. 6d., and last a lifetime. Why pay a guinea?

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OF ALL STORES, CUTLERS, &c., Or post free from the CLEMAK RAZOR CO., Kilburn St., London.

CLEMAK Safety Razor 5/-

JOHN BULL.

Politics without Party—Criticism without Cant:
Without Fear or Favour, Rancour or Rant.

Vol. XI. No. 290. Week ending Saturday, December 23rd, 1911. One Penny.

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The John Bull League.

LEEDS AND DISTRICT BRANCH.
A GRAND SMOKING CONCERT
WILL BE HELD AT THE
GOLDEN LION HOTEL, LOWER BRIGGATE,
FRIDAY, JANUARY 5th, 1912, at 8 p.m.
Chairman: Reginald Knight, Esq.
ADMISSION FREE

THE WORLD, THE FLESH, AND THE DEVIL.

[The Editor discourses upon passing events and topics of the day.]

TO YOU ALL.

Once more, a Merry Christmas to our readers—that is to say, in addition to the good wishes expressed in *John and Mary*, now nearly out of print. We specially commend to your attention this week's "Bill" which "Ought to Pass." See page 920. No glum faces, please—the glad eye and the glad hand all round.

ANOTHER NAIL.

The debate on young Primrose's motion respecting the appointment of magistrates was useful as driving one more nail into the Party coffin. If people cannot agree as to the party colour of "Justices"—just imagine the irony of the thing, by the bye!—the obvious remedy is to confine appointments to non-Party men. Oh, for a Business Bench!

FOR THE CHILDREN.

Just read our "Biscuit" competition. By entering for it you must in time become both witty and wise—a rare combination.

BRAVO, MR. SPEAKER!

The Speaker administered a well deserved rebuke when he complained of the time of the House being wasted over petty personal squabbles in relation to the Insurance Bill. It is a pity that Mr. Lloyd George, with all his abilities, is so sensitive to personal attack. He really might learn something in this respect from ourselves!

COUNSEL AND THE PUBLIC.

Congratulations to Mr. Justice Bargrave Deane for censuring counsel in a recent case for "throwing mud" at a witness—which he described as "a disgraceful exhibition." We read, with amusement, that the counsel in question was "much affected" and felt "quite unable to proceed with his cross-examination." Was his stock of mud exhausted? This, by the way, is one of the matters *The Lay Lawyer* will take in hand.

BRAVO, CHARLIE!

We must also give a cheer for Lord Charles Beresford, who preaches the gospel of the John Bull League in regard to Germany—*i.e.*, that we should *at once* come to an "understanding"—the basis of which is to be our unchallenged naval supremacy. Under a Business Government we think we should offer Charlie the Admiralty portfolio.

THOSE LAWYERS!

Another illustration of the antics of counsel, by the way, was afforded during the Charing Cross Bank trial. "My opinion," said Mr. Justice Channell, "is that nine-tenths of the evidence (for the prosecution) has no bearing on the case." Just reflect what that means. Counsel for the *prosecution, by the Crown*, is permitted by even a strong judge to hurl at the head of the defendant a mass of so-called "evidence" which has "*no bearing on the case.*" Isn't it about time the public took the matter in hand?

THE SANDRINGHAM SCANDAL.

We have no desire to revive an unpleasant topic, but we do not remember to have read anywhere that Mrs. Farrar, who wired to her brother in America to come to her at once, as she was "in great trouble"—and who could not be found on his arrival—has been duly discovered; nor have we read any explanation of how, when and why Mr. Farrar was allowed to get out of the country. It is a sorry business, and we are not quite certain that we are discharging our duty to the public in helping to hush it up.

A WELCOME RESPITE.

Everybody will be pleased that Parliament, at length, is "up." The Talking House has had a good innings, and we require time to get our breath. Next session we shall see things really happening. *We know something.* But, it being Christmas, we will say nothing this week.

THE "YES—NO" POLICY.

It would be difficult to find a more obvious illustration of the farce and futility of the Party game than what is happening over the Insurance Bill. For weeks and weeks the Opposition, with its Press behind it, has been whipping up public opinion against the Bill, as to which we have never concealed our own opinions. But when it comes to third reading, Mr. Bonar Law says for his Party: "We cannot vote 'No' for it, because we believe in it; and we cannot vote 'Yes' for it, because we don't"—so they don't vote at all! Then the shout goes up: "Thank heaven we have a House of Lords!" But when the Bill reaches that Chamber, the Opposition leader merely utters a few pious doubts and whispers a few polite maledictions—and lets it pass without a single amendment! The whole funk and foodle was aptly exposed in a recent issue by MrFrank Holland, in the cartoon in which he pictures the insured "slavey" saying to his lordship, "Willing to wound and yet afraid to strike. . . . Give me the daggers." We fear, however, that it is now too late to slay the monster.

FUTILE CODES.

It is amazing to read in accounts of recent espionage charges that supposedly astute people still believe in the inscrutability of conventionally compiled codes for transmitting messages which they desire to keep secret. As a matter of fact, the deciphering of such cryptic communications, if of more than a few words in length, as rely upon the transposition of letters, figures, etc., presents no difficulty to the expert—who works mainly upon the ascertained law of average. For instance, he immediately translates the most frequent character into *e*; if two signs often come together, especially if preceding the *e*, he at once writes them down as *th*—and so on with the rest. The only practically safe code is, of course, the laborious one indicating the positions of words in a book. It is absolutely impossible to decode such a message without being aware of the name of the volume and possessing a copy of it. As an example we give the following, based upon our Christmas Number, *John and Mary*, the first figure representing the page, the second the column, the third the line and the fourth the position of the word in the line:—29, 2, 38, 1; 42, 2, 26, 4; 32, 2, 6, 8; 1, 1, 18, 11; 62, 2, 26, 8; 22, 1, 32, 1; 2, 2, 13, 9; 6, 2, 16, 3; 30, 1, 45, 10; 1, 1, 48, 5-6. Try this on your friends!

HALDANE HIPPED.

There was one passage in Lord Lansdowne's strategic movement to the rear in the House of Lords the other day which tickled us hugely. "If," said he, "Lord Haldane could get his Territorial army up to strength in the way in which the Government increases the army of officials, there would be nothing to complain of." It should, however, be remembered that as a Territorial recruiting sergeant Lord Haldane is an economist, whereas Mr. Lloyd George may spend as much money as he likes. He would appoint an official at £1,000 a year in order to save a clause, while Lord Haldane would haggle about giving a Territorial a bawbee in order to save his country.

BANNED.

We understand that in deference to the views of the Roman Catholic authorities in Mayo, both this journal and *Mrs. Bull* are in future to be boycotted in that town, being classed as "immoral literature." As our companions in the dock include *Reynolds', The Sunday Chronicle, The People, The Weekly Dispatch, Lloyd's,* and *The Weekly Budget*, we feel we are sinning in good company. But what have we done to deserve such treatment? It is strange that by the same mail which brings us the intelligence we receive an angry letter from an Irish Protestant, accusing us of an undue leaning towards his Catholic fellow-countrymen!

POST OFFICE MONEY BOXES.

Having introduced his three-shilling money boxes into the Post Office Savings Bank system, Mr. Herbert Samuel seems to have promptly gone to sleep. For months they had been puffed and paragraphed in every form of British journalese, yet when the day came for issuing them there was not a single one on show in the Post Offices, and barring a minute picture on an official notice, nobody knew whether the money box was round, square, oval, or triangular; whether it was made of lead, tin, zinc, putty, or cheese; or whether it could be burgled with a table knife or hair pin, or dislocated with a coal hammer. The result was that the British public did not go wild with enthusiasm over that money box, and trade was rather dull, Oh for a —— Well, if Mr. Samuel wishes to sell his money boxes hadn't he better get somebody to dress his windows?

RAILWAYS AND THE STATE.

We confess that the Parliamentary report on the Western Railway of France, run by the State, is not encouraging to the idea of the British railways being nationalised. The management of the railway by the State officials has been a sorry business. It shows a loss of £3,000,000, while in three years the expenses have increased till they now amount to 93 per cent. of the gross receipts. And now the administration demands the creation of 5,280 new officials—more than Mr. Lloyd George will need to work his Insurance Bill. On the other hand, the French Northern line, run by a private company, does well. There is something wrong somewhere. What says Mr. Snowden?

PITY THE POOR CONVICT.

The Eastern District Choral Society gave a rehearsal of "The Messiah" at Wormwood Scrubbs Prison on December 13th, and we are told many of the prisoners were moved to tears by the music. We can thoroughly believe it. But why this extra punishment? Surely, if the object of the Home Secretary is to improve his guests for the time being, he should not attempt to do it by means of rehearsals, but give them the finished article!

PULPIT POLITICS.

For the last three or four years the Rev. J. M. Carrack has been curate of St. James's, Little Roke, Kenley, but it appears that he will have to relinquish this position at the New Year for reasons which, to say the least, are a little peculiar. There is no doubt that he is a strenuous worker and a friend of the poor. To quote from the parish magazine: "Very many parishioners will hear with unfeigned regret that the Rev. J. M. Carrack is leaving us. His work in the district has been of a very strenuous character. He has laboured in season and out of season, and has been an unwearied visitor among all classes, always with one end, and that the highest." Under his guidance the St. James's Mission made such progress that within a year of his taking charge the premises had to be enlarged. Why is he leaving? Not because he has received a "call" to a more lucrative living, but because during the Election of 1910 it became known that he favoured the Liberal cause, with the result that many of the parishioners are withholding their subscriptions. The following are extracts from typical letters he has received:—"I understand that you are in favour of the Liberal Government and that the Government intends to bring in a Welsh Disestablishment Bill. Yet I am asked to contribute towards your stipend." Another says: "Apart from other things, I am afraid your Party has the intention of disendowing the Church." If our rev. friend is wise he will eschew politics in future—or join Mr. Silvester Horne!

CHRISTMAS IS COMING.

One of the signs by which we know is that the aquapuritans on various Boards of Guardians are refusing to permit anybody to present the poor pauper with a glass of beer, and that they are earnestly advocating the virtues of ginger pop. One of the few exceptions is at Midhurst, where the Rev. F. Tatchell, the Vicar, has offered to the workhouse inmates (and the Guardians have accepted) a bottle of beer each for their Christmas dinner. It is a Christian work, and we trust the inmates will be blessed thereby.

THE FLATNESS OF FACT.

A flamboyant young man on the *Morning Leader*, describing in its issue of Tuesday, December 5th, the annual Cattle Show, says: —

> Stately, calm contrast was supplied in the attitude of the Fat Poultry. They never shivered in all this din; the imminent aroma of bread sauce and sage and onions moved them not; with a cold, unseeing eye they gazed upon this glut of promised good things with the cruel hint of the carving-knife flashing over all. But not a breast fluttered; the carcase department refused to rise to the sardonic situation!

To come from flights of fancy to flat facts, the poultry were not staged until the Wednesday morning! And when he wrote this fine paragraph there was not a bird in the Hall! Our journalistic confrére must take "Brainine."

THE "LUSITANIA" STEWARDS.

One of these "men in white" sends us a graphic account of the conditions under which they work. We would suggest that the first-class passengers should one day go in a body below deck and have a look round for themselves.

IF *WE* HAD SAID IT!

Somebody has sent us the *Protestant Standard* for December 9th, and directed our attention to the leading article on "Christians." We read that "Our Lord was determined that there should be no stint of wine on the auspicious occasion, so he contributed of his own free will 162 gallons more wine, . . . If there were 641 persons present at the feast, Christ allowed them a quart of wine each. . . . We therefore exhort all of our readers who propose giving a Christmas feast, and who desire that it may be a great success—a time of merriment and joy—*to be sure to invite Jesus Christ to be one of the guests.*" Now, if *we* had said that! For downright unadulterated blasphemy, commend us to the so-called religious journals!

DISGUSTED SPORTSMEN.

Mr. Lotinga is a sportsman to the backbone, and the amount of work he put into the "Jockeys *versus* Popular Notabilities" football match can be comprehended only by those who, like ourselves, are in a position to know. But the local "appreciation" was enough to take the heart out of anyone. The leading "big-wigs" refused their "patronage," and the Hospital executive gave no assitance in regard to collecting boxes, etc.—though they did not fail to send down at the end of the match to take over the £200 secured by the efforts of the snubbed sportsmen. Such treatment suggests that upon another occasion it might be possible to find more grateful recipients—such as our "Human Document" and Christmas Funds. Did the Hospital authorities regard the money as tainted? If so, we remind them of our old House of Commons story about the Roman Emperor—*Non olet.*

TWO RIDDLES.

Why are Party Politics like "Brainine"? Because they both go straight to the brain. And what is the difference? One numbs the brain and the other stimulates it.

"AS ITHERS SEE US."

From a recent lecture on "Saints and Sinners in Morocco": "If religious observances could win heaven, the Moor would easily reach heaven, for God's name was always on his lips. If he were ordered to do a piece of work, the Moor said 'If God wills it': and if the work was not done, the Moor considered it was through the interposition of the Divine providence." The lecturer might have also informed his audience that, in this country, not many ages ago, could be seen letters something like "D.V." on announcements of sermons and other entertainments, and that we could have heard such expressions as "God's will be done" when the cat didn't jump just right. Who was the Bishop, by the bye, who, on accepting an invitation to a country house, said he would arrive "D.V., on Friday, but *in any case* not later than Saturday morning"?

WITH APOLOGIES TO DAVID.

We often get, as we from time to time point out in these columns, some very tall questions put to us by correspondents who appear to think (and with a great deal of reason) that our staff possesses the attribute of omniscience. Recently one of our readers wrote to us on the subject of "Baccarat," and wanted to know our opinion as to the advisability of the punter "buying on five." We duly handed over the question to our card expert, who evidently has decided views on the subject. The following is the answer he has sent in:—

> May never joy his bosom bless
> Accursed be his life—
> His children all be fatherless
> And widow'd be his wife,
> His seed to blank oblivion pass
> Nor like be left to thrive—
> The brainless, idiotic ass
> Who punts—and "buys" on five.

THE ALTERNATIVE.

So the child-canvasser has to go. The Tottenham Education authority decreed it and the London County Council ratified the decree. Never again, apparently, may benevolent-looking old gentlemen be clamorously requested by groups of masked and ragged urchins to "remember Guy Fawkes." Nor further, probably, shall we have the opportunity of contributing our mite towards "our school concert" or "our new football club," when urged to do so by diminutive, but shrill voiced, touts. For the fiat has gone forth that all such appeals, if successful, do but encourage the youthful intellect, already sharp enough, in an altogether undesirable branch of the art of special pleading—that, to wit, associated with the begging profession. Well, we suppose that these authorities know best. But of the varied demands upon our purse we would far rather for our own part gratify that made by the urchin-proprietor of a roadside "grotto," built of vacated oyster shells, than the tax-gatherer's more formal requisition.

MAMMOTH FOOTBALL COMPETITIONS.

Competitions are the order of the day, and commencing with the New Year, we propose inaugurating a regular JOHN BULL Competition page, dealing with football and various other skill contests. Next week we shall announce particulars of two unique Football Competitions, one to be the commencement of a regular weekly feature in connection with the various League games, and the other having reference to the Cup Final. In connection with these contests we shall offer record prizes.

CATASTROPHIC CHRISTIANITY.

The grey and black granite monument erected in West Houghton cemetery over the remains of the unidentified victims of the Pretoria pit disaster bears a remarkable inscription. It sets out that the monument is "sacred to the loving memory of 344 men and boys" who lost their lives by this awful disaster, "twenty-four of whom sleep under this monument," the inscription concluding with the words: "*Be ye, therefore, ready also, for the Son of Man cometh at an hour when ye think not.*" The idea of the Son of Man and the Lord of Mercy coming in a pit explosion to blow up 344 men and boys is not a novelty of pulpiteering, but nobody who thinks for a moment will tolerate it. It would make Christianity villainous if it were true, just as it makes piety hypocritical.

ON THE WARPATH.

Of a verity Mrs. Grundy is abroad, and we shall all have to be a good deal more careful than heretofore. First it was the pretty bather in "Kismet"; next, one of those naughty imitators of Miss Maud Allan and Saharet, on the "Halls"; now it is a whole series of stage playlets that she has prohibited, till of all the graceless clan only "Sumurun" is left alive. Simultaneously we have meetings to ban a certain brand of literature for the young. (Will the Rev. F. B. Meyer's pamphlet for the schoolboys be placed upon the "Index Expurgatorius"?) Probably the next step will be the closing of the theatres altogether as exercising an all too frivolous influence upon a worldly minded generation. Even now it is said the publishing houses are making ready to print off big new editions of "The Pilgrim's Progress," whilst activity in the trade in church harmoniums synchronises with a decline in that for banjos and the comic opera scores. Well, it is a wicked world, no doubt. But even after the elimination by the unco guid of all these criminal accessories, we doubt whether the next generation of amusement-less sinners will be any readier for seats aloft than those naughty pleasurefull ones who went before.

AT WELLINGTON-CUM-EYTON.

We note from the parish magazine, apparently edited by the Rev. J. Sinclair Moore, M.A., the vicar of "Cum," that the churchwardens of Eyton are E. C. Eyton, Esq., and Mr. J. Chetwood, but peradventure E. C. Eyton, Esq., owns the place and Mr. J. Chetwood is merely an ordinary person. This, of course, makes all the difference—in Wellington-cum-Eyton.

A SOFT JOB AT SUTTON COLDFIELD.

We note that the Local Government Board have asked for the defensive observations of the Tamworth Guardians concerning their intention to appoint a relieving officer at £104 per annum, the duties consisting of the distribution of £3 17s. and twenty-eight loaves a week. What the observations of the Guardians will be is at present *sub rosa*—our observations, unsolicited, are that they had better raise the wages of the office boy by five shillings a week and hand over the duties of this prospective relieving officer to his sympathetic and energetic care.

ALABASTER AND THE POOR.

Reading the parish magazine of St. George's Church, Altrincham, we gather that the vicar, having found in October 7d., and in November 3d., in the poor box, feels encouraged to appeal to his congregation for £17 10s. in order to restore his alabaster pulpit. Before he gets this money we hope he will carefully distribute the tenpence.

WHAT EVERYONE IS ASKING.

"Have you read *John and Mary*?"

ANONYMOUS.

An anonymous person has sent us a postcard, requesting us to watch for the Second Advent, and announcing that "Turkey (Islam) shall fall, Rome (Popery) shall fall, East dynasties (Idolatries) shall fall, London (Pride of Conquest) shall fall, Jews all back to Judea, converted (Abrahamic) Jews restored, and worldly Jews cast out." He adds, "Show this card to Jew and Gentile." We hereby do. What is most disturbing is that London shall fall; but we have always said the Kaiser is up to something.

JUST OUR LUCK!

A £5 note and ten penny stamps have been found between the leaves of an old book purchased for 2d. at a stall in Farringdon Road. Do you know, we ourselves have been searching for that identical volume for years!

THIEF BIND, SAFE FIND.

In future, says an American exchange, all the official safes in California are to be constructed in prison by burglars undergoing sentences for safe-breaking. Presumably on their release these "experts" will not be long in discovering any "flaws" in their work.

TOO DRESSY?

Another American note.—Mr. Henry Kopp, a restaurant proprietor from Washington, has sued his lady for divorce because she would wear tights while on the stage. At least, that is how the papers put it.

PICTURES IN THE DARK.

We perceive one good man who does not object to Sunday picture shows, at any rate—this being the rev. gentleman who has charge of St. Peter's, Dartmouth Park Hill, Highgate. Here is his announcement, issued on an orange-coloured card: "A Service in the Dark. Where? St. Peter's, Dartmouth Park Hill. When? Next Sunday. . . . Who is invited? Everybody except children. Children will, however, be admitted if accompanied by a grown-up friend. No books required. Everything shown on the sheet. The very best pictures. Lights will *not* be turned up." Now if any ordinary Sunday picture show were to issue an advertisement of this character—well, all we had better say is that we wish these clergy would not make us blush.

SOUND SENSE.

Speaking at the Gimcrack Club Dinner, Mr. Hulton, the owner of the winner of the Gimcrack Stakes, made one or two observations which we heartily commend to the jawcrack club at St. Stephen's. "You cannot," he said, "eliminate the gambling instinct by Act of Parliament. . . . Let a man learn to control himself. . . . Deliver us from so much 'protection'—so much spoon food. . . . We are treated like chicks under a fussy old hen. . . . Englishmen, self-controlled and self-reliant, must be a better race than the spoon fed article." Hear, hear, and loud and long continued applause.

HUXLEY ON PARTY.

At a dinner of the Royal Society, Mr. Shaw Lefevre, in proposing Huxley's health, expressed regret that so skilful a dialectician had never sat in Parliament, whereupon Huxley, with an emphasis not to be forgotten by those present, replied that *all his life he had been consumed by a passion for the discovery of truth, and not for its obscuration*; hence he never had any ambition to enter on a political career.

WHAT ARE WE COMING TO?

This is the question asked by a correspondent, who thinks "we are fast arriving at the happy stage when every one in England will be an official. Britannia is the Laocoon having her life crushed out by the twin serpents of Party and bureaucracy. The Labour Exchanges were founded to provide jobs for Party parasites, and the Budget rewarded another lot of the vampires with fat appointments. Every member of the present 'Ins' is besieged by applications for 'jobs' under the Insurance Act. No wonder all thinking men are awaking to the necessity for a Business Government!" There is much truth in this.

LAST DITCHERS, LAST GASPERS AND DIE-HARDS.

Do our Party politicians ever really consider how supremely ridiculous they make themselves with their mock heroics? How any audience can have patience to listen to them passes our comprehension. They have all shown before now, and will show again, that they are like Bon Jean of anti-Jacobin fame:—

"Valiant captains in battles much delighting,
Who fled full soon on the first of June,
But *bade the rest keep fighting.*"

AN ESTIMATES COMMITTEE.

So we are to have one at last. But it is not to trespass upon "the control of the House of Commons," *or* the "control of the Treasury," *or* the "responsibility of Ministers" in regard to public expenditure. We presume, however, that it may be permitted to make an occasional Report. Still, it is a beginning—and we are glad to think that we were its pioneer.

A CHRISTMAS CRACKER.

Who, in the Old Testament, ought to have invented flying machines?—Aaron Ought.

P.C. HAMBONE ARRESTS HIS OWN CHILD FOR SNORING, AND IS WARMLY COMPLIMENTED BY THE MAGISTRATE.

"John Bull's" Biscuits.

["*Taking the Biscuit*" *has become a classic phrase, expressive of a satirical reward or recognition. In this column we present, in all good humour, this token to such of our contemporaries and others who may have distinguished themselves by some unconventional utterance or act.*]

(1). *For stating that: "Last Saturday, at a workmen's dinner, Mr. W. Wilde, managing director of the (Hickleton Main) colliery,* HANDED *Mr. Criddle a* ROLL-TOP DESK, A BOOKCASE AND CHAIR, *and a cheque for £112,"*

THE COLLIERY GUARDIAN
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

(2). *For stating that: "When Mr. Justice Ridley left the Assize Court in the evening his left eye showed signs of* DISLOCATION, *and there was a deep scar* INSIDE *the left eyebrow,"*

THE EASTERN MORNING NEWS (HULL)
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

(3). *For stating that: "Bury are the only club in the upper circles of the league* WITHOUT *a win to their credit. They have taken part in* 13 *games, of which they have* WON *eight and drawn five. The cause of their* WRETCHED *experience is the ineffectiveness of their forwards."*

THE SPORTING LIFE
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

(4). *For advertising in the "Sporting Chronicle" (Manchester): "We have only wired one* LOSER *this week, which was on Wednesday.* WE EXPECT ANOTHER THIS WEEK, *which will be sent to those remitting early to Post Office, Derby,"*

MESSRS. MORDAUNT AND HURST
TAKE THE BISCUIT.

(5). *For stating that Orangeville, in the Midland Handicap Steeplechase, "assuming the command* THREE *lengths from home, won by* FIVE *lengths,"*

THE STAR
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

(6). *For stating that: "Many distinguished people have been actively connected with the scheme (a bazaar), and the patrons include H.R.H. Princess Louise, who was to have performed the ceremony, but* HAS BEEN PREVENTED *from fulfilling the engagement at the last moment* THROUGH THE ILLNESS OF THE DUKE OF ARGYLL, LORD ROSEBERY, LORD PROVOST SIR WILLIAM S. BROWN, LIEUTENANT-GENERAL SIR BRUCE HAMILTON, K.C.B., K.C.V.O., AND SIR J. HANBURY WILLIAMS, K.C.V.O., C.M.G.,"

THE EVENING DISPATCH
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

(7). *For stating in "The Fishing Gazette" that: "Salmon showing more than one spawning mark are rare* BIRDS,"

MR. R. B. MARSTON
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

(8). *For stating that His Majesty's Ministers propose to "disestablish and disendow a Church which has witnessed for Christianity in Wales for* THREE THOUSAND *years ten more,"*

THE GLOBE
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

(9). *For stating in a story in the "Weekly Telegraph" that a cavalier, after* LEAVING CROMWELL, *"rode away up through* TRAFALGAR SQUARE *and into the Tottenham Court Road,"*

SIR GILBERT PARKER
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

OUR "BISCUIT" COMPETITION.

For particulars of an interesting—and profitable—Competition for children, see announcement

SHOULD A GERMAN "BOSS" OUR NAVY?

BULL-DOG BREED OR DACHSHUND?

AN APPEAL TO ENGLISH, IRISH, SCOTCH AND WELSH PATRIOTISM.

By M. H.

[There is much in the following article, in the way of both taste and style, of which we must say that we disapprove, but the subject with which it deals is one of such grave moment that we cannot stand upon niceties of language.]

It was our self-abasement that paved the way for the present arrogance of Germany. It began with that treacherous blackguard George I., and continued its pollution of the stream of English public life in the way Thackeray described in "The Four Georges," for truly:

George the First was little good,
Little better was George the Second;
What mortal man e'er heard a word
Of any good of George the Third?
When George the Fourth to hell descended,
God be praised! the Georges ended.

That tribe of Georges did "peter out," but their blighting influence, that saddled England with over seven hundred million pounds of National debt *to pay the cowardly Hessians and Hanoverians* 1s. *per day* to fight for their own country, permeated the Army, the Navy, and every Government department in England. In the old days the populace expressed very freely, both in words and deeds, its opinion of the mob of foreign hangers-on who had flocked here from the petty German Court with the monarch who had been invited over "for the good of the nation." The tale—probably founded on fact—goes that the carriage of some of these mercenaries was stopped in St. James's by a threatening crowd, whereupon a terrified old harridan poked her head out of the window and cried: "Mine goot peoples, mine goot peoples, vy you do tis? Ve come over for all your goots!" To which a vulgar wit replied, "Yes, damn you, and our chattels as well!"

TRUE AND FALSE PATRIOTISM.

Every true Englishman, Irishman, Scotsman, and Welshman, and every colonist who had washed his mind of cant, felt ashamed and humiliated at the records of the Court of that period. The *Court Circular* proclaimed in every issue that "No English need apply." The "pinch-your-pocket Bergs," "Morganatic-marriage Bergs," "Schweinbergs," and the rest of Germany had England as a "happy hunting ground." One starving princeling, who possessed a wife and three sweet pledges of affection, was "battened" on the British taxpayer at £6,000 per year. Another received the same yearly amount for marrying one of our princesses, and the climax was reached when a "wrong side of the blanket" royalty, whose worth in Germany was £80 a year, was given £6,000 per annum to marry another princess.

"THE HUNGRY BATTENBERGS."

To their credit, the late King and the present one resisted the German mendicants thus thrust upon the compulsory charity of the British taxpayer, and the moment—too late for England's real protection!—that King Edward came to the throne, the scourging of German batteners upon Britain's Court and "Civil List" began, but the mischief had been done. A German—Prince Edward of Saxe-Weimar—was an English Commander-in-Chief of the forces in Ireland of all places, at the time of the greatest civil unrest there! Another Battenberg was provided for in our Navy, and other Battenbergs are being similarly provided for in various ways. I thought that there was some limit to our grovelling and kissing the toes of the German Emperor and German cadgers, waiters, musicians, and bands, but I never imagined that a British ruler of the King's Navy would appoint a German to be in the position to know every secret of Britain's protection, and an arbiter of Britain's defences against Germany in the war that threatens us. But such is the fact. Prince Louis of Battenberg is to-day one of the chiefs of the British Navy!

IMPORTED PATRIOTISM OUR ONE STAND-BY.

It ought to make men and women who have Britain's honour at heart think deeply. Has the land of Sir John Hawkins, Drake, Frobisher, Collingwood, Nelson, Blake, and the long line of heroes whose "whips at the mast" showed how they rode and ruled the sea, become barren? Has Britannia's womb produced no native-born Englishman, Irishman, Scotsman, Welshman, Canadian, Australian, New Zealander, capable of acting as the chief custodian of the key to our national existence? Is our great Empire so degraded and sunken in incapacity that we must entrust its preservation to an imported patriot—Vice-Admiral Prince. I may be told that he is a naturalised Briton. Is that any answer? Britain is, as I have said, a happy hunting ground for starveling Germans who, for social and monetary reasons, renounce allegiance to their country. But consider the *vice versa* for a minute. Have we any measure for the contempt with which we regard a Britisher who renounces *his* country and becomes a naturalised German or Frenchman? What an impregnable fortress Britain is, with an imported patriot as its chief naval bulwark!

WAKE UP, BRITAIN!

I write strongly, not because the "brain of our Navy," as our egregious Press styles him, is a German and a Battenberg, but because I believe it is a crime against our Empire to trust our secrets of national defence to any alien. History has shown us how in times of supreme arbitrament the *condottieri* of old sold their hirers to the highest bidder, and used all the knowledge they acquired for the advantage of their own, their native land. I know that, being only human and having, as I believe the whole of my countrymen have, some patriotic bias—which not even the Bernard Shaws and Steads can divest themselves of—what I would do, as I am sure they would do, were I to be, by German idiocy, put in a supreme position in Germany's Navy—"Give the show away"—play traitor if you like to call it—because to me, as I am confident it is to every man, it is my country first. Anyway, it is a heavy strain to put upon any German to make him a ruler of our Navy, and give him the key to our defences, and I call upon Britain to "wake up" and cancel this appointment. Surely the time has arrived when only true-born British subjects should be placed in control of the King's Navy!

"GERMANY MUST BE STOPPED."

AN INTERESTING LETTER.

[*In our recent articles under the heading "Germany Must be Stopped" we referred to Germany's natural desire to expand in the direction of Belgium and Holland; and the following letter is the commentary of two readers, Dutch and Belgian respectively, upon the policy we advocated.*]

We, and, we think, thousands of Hollanders and Belgians with us, are grateful to you for the few words you say in your recent issue dealing editorially with Germany's naval pretensions:—"Hit now, and hit hard." For with England's supremacy at sea Dutch and Belgian independence must stand or fall.

If England does not hit Germany now, and hit hard, the latter will in the course of a few years be strong enough at sea to resist any naval action of interference on the part of England, while her army—Germany's formidable army—floods Holland, not with water, but with men, and after Holland—Belgium must follow.

Unless England tells Holland now that she does not want to see the intended improved fortification of the Dutch coast become a fact, the present Dutch Government will do what Germany dictates. "What Germany dictates." For what is the good of the fortification of the Dutch coast to Holland, especially that of Flushing? Flushing is situate on the island of Walcheren; what use, therefore, to fortify Flushing? To Holland nothing, to Germany everything. A glance at the map will show that the fortification of Flushing cannot possibly serve any useful purpose to Holland, but, on the other hand, a very important one to Germany, as we shall see.

Germany's policy is clear—Frighten a clerical Dutch Government out of its wits. Press it to build, with the Hollanders' money, fortifications which Germany will want in the near future. Master the naval supremacy at all costs. Capture Holland, and Belgium next—the mouth of the Scheldt being bottled up at Flushing—for the double purpose of securing ports, as far as Holland is concerned, and silencing France by now threatening that country from the north also.

Not only would Germany's position in Europe be practically unassailable, but she would also get what she has been wanting for a long time—colonies that could be made to pay. The Dutch East Indies and the Belgian Congo would mean a valuable asset to Germany.

Holland *cannot* resist a German army, as the Eastern line of defence that Hollanders have always been told would protect Amsterdam—a dream—has been neglected for many years. Her army is incapable of even holding up the Germans for a few hours. The flooding of the country to drown an invading army by turning a key in Amsterdam is a myth.

As soon as Germany sees herself strong enough at sea, she will do on land what she pleases as regards Holland—take it, and Belgium immediately after. For, whilst a very small part only of her army would be necessary to overcome these two countries, the rest will be held ready to invade France should this Power be prepared to come to the rescue of her northern neighbour.

Unless, therefore, England "hits now, and hits hard," or plainly tells Germany that no more German warships are to be laid down, Germany will soon be powerful enough to do as outlined above, to the greatest danger of universal peace. The world's peace is safe so long as Britannia rules the waves, but it is impossible to tell where Germany's aspirations will end when once her flag is hoisted in Amsterdam and Brussels and the Black Eagle is predominant on the high seas.

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For Particulars see Next Week's "JOHN BULL."

STEALING OUR THUNDER.

BUSINESS GOVERNMENT IDEAS BECOMING FASHIONABLE.

[*We have received the following flattering letter from a correspondent in close touch with the workings of both political parties in the State. We quote it without comment, except to observe that we are not of a jealous disposition, and to say "Good luck" to "the Cause."*]

It will almost certainly have struck you, JOHN BULL, as it has struck all those who are brought into daily contact with the Party system, that the wirepullers on both sides are engaged in a deliberate, underhand policy of poaching your preserves. The process, probably unconscious at first, began after the election of January, 1910, when official Liberalism fell from its high estate into bondage, and Conservatism found itself once again looking around with hope for a popular fighting programme and a useful cry. Previous to 1910 you had been pretty generally disregarded in political circles. Your first win at South Hackney in 1906 was attributed by the Party hacks to your own personality, popular caprice, the novelty and audacity of your views, your sporting interests and ownership of Wargrave, your gift of oratory, the Tory slump—anything, in fact, save the genuine failure of a decrepit Party system to satisfy public demands—but as the years rolled by, and your programme, policy, and proposals were expounded in a score of attractive and convincing forms, a change of front became apparent, and the Party bosses had begun to realise that they had something bigger than caprice to reckon with, long before the East Bristol result came to ram the moral home. That something is the fact that the old shibboleths are losing all their force.

I think it sums up fairly to say that, broadly speaking, Radicalism appeals to the emotions, Conservatism to the head. Is it not natural, then, that a programme which combines the best of these two programmes in one, which appeals to heart *and* head, individual interests *and* national, immediate progress *and* permanent, should more and more tend to sweep the board as its features get understood? And that is what your programme does.

PARTIES WAKING UP.

Now it is manifestly impossible, as matters stand, for either party to welcome, recognise, or even be civil to the John Bull League. The demon of journalistic jealousy stands in the way for a start. The big dailies, with the exception, perhaps, of the *Telegraph*, are not going to give JOHN BULL credit for what JOHN BULL does. In plain language, they'd see you to —— first. Nor are the Party politicians, whatever their private opinions, prepared to play a more straightforward part. It is only natural they should stick to the Party game, with which their bread and butter and their ambitions in life are involved. . . But this is not to say they may not stealthily assimilate your principles, your ideals, your policy, your cry. This is not to say they may not steal! The most effective way to deal with a pest is to take out its sting! John, it is only quite recently that the Party bosses have realised you have a sting.

Let us review together those chief occurrences of the dying year which you have claimed as victories for the Cause, and ask ourselves how far they may safely be considered in that light. Take the last culminating staggerer first—the appointment of a business man as Leader of the Opposition. The Tories found a cry—the cry of "A Business Man!" But I see no corresponding acknowledgment that the idea is cribbed bodily from you. It redounds tremendously to your credit as a moving force in British politics.

Now take an instance from the other side. Who criticised the way supplies are voted first, and advocated the Committee system by way of control? You. And who booms the notion now and treats it as an inspiration of its own? The Cocoa Press. Then your Dormant Bank Balances Bill again. They tried to laugh you out of court at first. Now, so great is the revulsion of feeling against increased taxation while vast sources of revenue lie untapped that I expect any day to hear that one of the great Parties has taken the idea up—of course without acknowledgment to you. There was a time when none but you and *Truth* ventured to attack the decisions of the great unpaid. Now the reform of the magistracy is another stock Radical cry.

A BAPTIST MISSION SCANDAL.—II.

A BLACK SCOUNDREL'S RECORD—RICH LADIES AND "CONVERTED" NEGROES.

By Our Special Commissioner.

[Our Special Commissioner continues his exposure of a Baptist mission scandal, and shows the futility of the Institution.]

My first article gave a brief account of the African Training Institute at Colwyn Bay, and showed how negroes are "prepared for the ministry." I now come to a more serious part of the story.

As my readers will remember, in October last the Rev. W. Hughes, the founder and director of the Mission, published in the *Colwyn Bay Times* (a little journal printed and published by the Institute) a warning threatening legal proceedings against anybody "circulating a scandalous report concerning one of the Colonial young men who are now at the African Institute." It stated that "We have investigated this matter thoroughly, and find there is no truth whatever in the report." No doubt Mr. Hughes thought this warning would effectively close the mouths of the people in Colwyn Bay. So it did. But the bold threat of "the law" has no special terror in Long Acre.

When the people of Colwyn Bay said that a negro connected with the Institute was the father of a half-caste child, and that the mother was a white girl in service at Colwyn Bay, they were speaking the truth. And I would point out to Mr. Hughes that if, as he said, he investigated this statement, and "found no truth in it," he must have conducted his enquiries in an extraordinary manner.

The Truth of the Scandal.

In February last a white girl gave birth in a house at Colwyn Bay to a half-caste child. For obvious reasons I refrain from giving the name of the mother or the address at which the child was born. So far as the father is concerned, however, I propose taking a different course. Although he bears the honoured name of Franklin—given to him by some misguided person when he became "converted," I suppose—he is a black scoundrel. He is a native of the West Indies. Some twelve years ago he came to this country as an actor, taking the part of "Uncle Tom" in a dramatised version of Mrs. Beecher Stowe's novel. Whilst visiting Colwyn Bay he attended one of the services, and became a "Christian convert." His quick perception told him there was money in it, and a probably permanent job as a missionary in Africa. He was a prominent figure in the Welsh "Revival" meetings, and I am credibly informed that he could pray for hours at a stretch. The Young Men's Christian Association simply went mad about him, as did also a great many of the Nonconformist churches in South Wales.

After being trained at the African Institute for three years he went out to Nigeria as a missionary. Once there, he severed his connection with the Colwyn Bay authorities, became a servant of the Church Missionary Society, and "spread the light of the glorious gospel amongst the heathen of the Niger"—to quote Mr. Hughes. While he was thus "spreading," however, he was engaged in other pursuits of a less spiritual character—for which he was sentenced to six months' imprisonment. That terminated his engagement with the Church Missionary Society. After his release from prison things became too warm for him in Nigeria, so the "fallen angel" worked his way back to this country. Naturally he went at once to the Institute at Colwyn Bay, where he soon got to work—in more senses than one. He worked on what is called "deputation" for the Institute—that is to say, he visited different towns in England and Wales, and preached for the purpose of drawing in funds. The other work he was engaged in was the ruination of white girls. I have been able to track this "eloquent preacher" through different towns, and his exploits may form the subject of another article. He is beyond dispute the father of the half-caste child born at Colwyn Bay in February.

English Ladies and Negroes.

During the summer months at Colwyn some of the lady visitors act in an astonishing manner towards these natives. They may be seen seated with them on the sea front, in earnest, if not affectionate, conversation. Afternoon tea parties are arranged, and when the dusk of evening arrives, "black and white" may frequently be seen strolling together down the road behind the Institute. Drawing-room meetings are frequently held. At one of these, so impressed with the preacher were those present, that four ladies promised to each support a student for four years. A collection was made at another, and £75 was realised. I may say that this particular meeting was held almost within a stone's throw of where British men, women, and children were existing in a state of semi-starvation. How these black "boys" must laugh!

Finance.

During the first year of the Institution's reign at Colwyn it managed to rake in the sum of only £80. The second year it increased the amount to £200; the third year to £400; the two following years to about £1,100—after which it has remained stationary at about £1,300.

Management.

In the annual report for 1911 I find the name of a much respected Justice of the Peace figuring as Chairman of the Council. I cannot think he knows all that goes on at the establishment—and outside. The list of vice-presidents contains the names of other Justices of the Peace, and also many Baptist ministers. I suggest they hold a round table conference, and before they again allow poor little children to collect at Sunday School classes to enable these black men to preach the Gospel to the poor heathen, satisfy themselves that the persons they propose to send out to Africa are likely, by their conduct, to reflect credit upon their white trainers—to say nothing of the religion which they are about to expound.

"Condemning All For One."

It will perhaps be said that I am condemning the whole of the Institute because of "one black sheep." I am doing nothing of the kind. I affirm that the proselytising of the native race is a costly sham; and having travelled considerably in both Africa and India, I speak of only what I know.

Mr. Hughes, in his *Christian Appeal*, says, "The African Institute has now forty-three mission stations in Africa, and 4,200 Christian converts." Will he give us the names of five or six of these stations? And how is it possible to know the number of persons really converted?

My Experience of Converts.

It costs an average of £20 to convert nominally a "heathen" to Christianity; and once he is "converted" he soon exhibits all the vices of the white man, and none of his virtues. I remember well my first visit to India, and the native servants I engaged. They were all "converted" to Christianity. They lied, they thieved, and they swore "like troopers." When I travelled in Africa I steered clear of the "convert."

Let those who subscribe to the missions ponder on what I have said.

TRAVELLING AUCTIONEERS.

WHY THEY SHOULD RESUME THEIR JOURNEYS WITHOUT DELAY.

[A warning against the horde of mock-auctioneers who are just now reaping a rich harvest from thousands of "gulls."]

A Brixton correspondent wishes us to warn our readers against a swindle which has been practised for some time in all parts of the country. It is so systematically organised that to the unwary it appears a perfectly honest business.

Under the very proud professional cloak of "auctioneers," a number of young men open in all parts of the country temporary premises for the sale by auction of "jewellery," china, glass, plate, umbrellas, pen-knives, etc., of the "shoddy" variety.

Our correspondent tells us that he has been in close contact with several of these gentry, the ages of most of whom range from 23 to 27 years. He has frequently heard them laugh over the different "squeals"—this branch of the "profession's" term for disturbances—that have been made by deluded purchasers. On one occasion one of the men told him that he put up for auction a watch which really cost 8s. 6d., and at last succeeded in knocking it down to a working-man for £2 10s. The victim had been thus induced to overbid by the touts and hangers-on who were apparently endeavouring to purchase the article. Whilst it was being wrapped up the floor-man hurried round to the buyer and secured the money before he changed his mind, a receipt being handed to him for £2 10s., "for a watch sold *by auction*"—the significance of the wording being that should the purchaser find out the real value of the article, he has no right to demand the return of the money. Later in the evening the workman returned, and said that, as the watch was of no use to him at all, he wanted his money refunded. He was thereupon told the old yarn that there was only a manager in charge of the business, but he would wire the "boss," and if the purchaser called the next evening he would be informed just exactly what could be done. On calling he was told that the proprietor stated that the only course was for the watch to be put up for auction without reserve, the man taking his chance of whether it would fetch more or less than he gave for it—the suggestion, however, being that it would no doubt fetch more. This was agreed to, and upon it being put up it was bought into stock at 10s. by one of the "manager's" friends—and in this way the poor man was fleeced of £2.

The profits of most of these young men are as high as 500 per cent., and the weekly turnover of one is well over £1,000. Of course, the fact that the public get something for their money saves the majority of them from being sent on a long holiday at His Majesty's expense.

Naturally, many deluded purchasers "cut up rough" on discovering how they have been tricked. One of the well-known devices for getting rid of such undesirables from the sale-room, where they would prevent others from falling into the trap, is to keep them waiting until 11 p.m., when the shop is closed. He is then ordered off the premises, as the licence stipulates that the place must be cleared at that hour. A policeman is sometimes even called in to point this out!

The start of one of the principals of these modern "knights of the road" is interesting. At an early age he stole two pairs of curtains from his father's shop and sold them in the local market-place. With the money thus obtained he bought others and did well, but he attributes his success to sitting down in a gambling "hell" with two or three pounds in his pocket and getting up with over £100. He proudly boasts that he has never looked back from that day, and can now write a cheque for several thousands of pounds!

So unfairly does this illegitimate competition affect the respectable jewellers in the towns upon which these sharpers dump themselves, that a number of them have combined for the protection of themselves and the inhabitants. The difficulty is that in most cases the spoilers of the Egyptians open their premises for but a week, taking away all the ready cash available and departing before the public outcry can affect them. At this season of the year they are particularly prevalent, and we warn our readers against them.

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE TYRANNY.

A DEVONSHIRE SCANDAL.

[Bitter complaints of parents in a Devonshire village in regard to the treatment of sick children.]

Parents who have boys at public schools are apt to complain without much reason that the authorities are over-anxious to quarantine lads thought to be sickening for fever of some kind. But in regard to the Council Schools established throughout the country the complaint is the other way about. There the Attendance Officers insist sometimes upon children going to school when they ought to be at home.

Our attention has been directed to the village of Ashreigney, Devon. The Managers of the school have entered a strong protest against the way in which during a recent epidemic of measles the school was kept open and children forced to attend it until practically every child was made to take the complaint and almost every home in the village consequently suffered. As a result of this, children were sent to school in an absolutely unfit condition and pneumonia and death have resulted. Let us give a few instances of the improper pressure applied and what came of it:—

CASE 1.—A girl, 9 years of age, in July had diphtheria. She was kept at home until the end of the first week after the summer holidays. The mother was reluctant to send her when the schools re-opened, because the child was so weak after her illness. The mother was visited, with the result that she was afraid to keep the child at home any longer "for fear of getting into trouble." The child was, therefore, sent to school, having to cover a distance of about two miles each way, over rough and hilly ground, in an extremely weak condition. She immediately fell seriously ill with inflammation of the brain, and although she has now recovered, for several nights she was delirious.

CASE 2.—A girl, 7 years of age, was absent from school in consequence of illness. The parents, pressed by the authorities, much against their will sent the child to school though she was still very weak. As soon as the girl began attending school again a lump appeared on the side of her neck. She became seriously ill, and died on October 6th. Pressed as to why she had not kept the child at home as soon as the swelling appeared, the mother said she was afraid to do so as the Attendance Officer had threatened to report. So this poor child, whose home was over two miles from the school, by a very hilly and rough road, was doomed, weak as she was, to drag herself there until her illness speedily assumed a fatal form and brought her merciful deliverance.

CASE 3.—A boy, aged 11, attended school last on September 26th. On the Monday or Tuesday following he was very poorly with running cold and cough and inflamed eyes. The parents sent him to school, as they said they were afraid to keep him at home only for a cold, having been so much worried whenever a child stopped away. On the Wednesday (September 27th) he was so ill that he could only lie about all day. Next day he was visited by the doctor and was found to have measles, upon which congestion of the lungs and pneumonia rapidly supervened, the direct consequence of the boy being sent to school when suffering from measles in an early stage. The boy, for about a fortnight, lay at death's door and was given up. He is still very ill. The parents complain bitterly of the way in which they have been persecuted whenever they have kept a child at home, and they felt compelled to send their children to school when they have been very bad, sometimes with painful gatherings in the ear, sometimes with feet so swollen with chilblains, that they could only wear old slippers, which let in all the mud and water.

The County Education Committee say they cannot let parents say whether a child should go to school or not. It is a medical question and only a medical officer can decide it. We agree, but if the medical officers are to be sole arbiters, there should be strict obligation on them to keep themselves duly informed. The keeping open of a school in an epidemic is in the highest degree perilous, unless care is taken to exclude children already affected.

LABOUR WAR OF 1912.—III.

WHAT CAPITAL HAS TO SAY.

[In these articles we are giving the result of enquiries by our Special Commissioner into the causes of the prevalent industrial unrest, and the strength of the respective forces of Capital and Labour in the coming struggle.]

Our previous articles have dealt with that portion of organised labour that really matters in a life and death struggle.

The great "captains of industry" proclaim with one accord, "We must have adequate return for our invested funds." Many railway companies are paying a low rate of interest. The directors point out that it is a very easy matter to increase the fares and freights, and, indeed, at least one line has already given notice of its intention to do so. But increased rates and increased wages will not be of much benefit to either the companies or the servants, for the simple reason that, on account of the rise in the cost of food, a few months' working on the new basis will bring them to the exact proportion which they bear at present. Labour will then grow restless again, and there will probably be food riots, as in France and Austria. To-day it is the railway companies which have to bear the burden of abuse. To-morrow it will be those who supply the "staff of life." The fact of the matter is, the cost of living during the past ten years has risen 12 per cent. The railway companies certainly have not reaped the benefit of this increase, but they have to bear the burden of the first skirmish in a campaign of which no one can safely predict the end.

"Recognition."

Of course the present trouble arises from the companies' refusal to bargain with organised labour. The companies claim that only a third of their servants came out on strike, and they have an obligation to perform to those men who remained loyal to them. They argue, Why should outsiders be allowed to dictate terms for men who refuse to have anything to do with them? To "recognise," in the trade union definition of the term, would mean driving all the non-union men into the ranks of the discontents. The companies refuse, and say that they will never bow the knee to "paid agitators." The strike of last August found them quite unprepared—they frankly admit it, but assert that it will never happen again. Willy-nilly, they were compelled to agree to a Royal Commission to settle the differences between themselves and a portion of their servants. Both sides agreed to abide by the findings of that Commission. But, the companies ask, When the result was published, what happened? Because the award was not to the liking of the discontented servants they exclaimed, "We won't have it!" The companies plead that no country can carry on business and allow such a state of affairs to exist. So far back as 1869 a Royal Commission was appointed to enquire into certain labour troubles. It said:—

> The power of working, and consequently the value of a man's labour, varies in different individuals, according to their skill, their strength, and their industry. The workmen who think it for their advantage to combine together in the disposal of their labour are no more justified in constraining any other workman who does not desire such association to combine with them—to bring his labour into common stock as it were, with theirs—than an association of capitalists in constraining an individual capitalist to bring his capital into common stock with theirs; and it is the more important that the law should protect the non-unionist workman in the right freely to dispose of his labour as he thinks fit, because, standing alone, he is less able to protect himself.

The Royal Commission of 1911 is in complete harmony with that of the 'sixties, for its Report says:—

> Men have the right to determine their engagement by giving a lawful notice, but in the exercise of their freedom in this respect they should not, in our opinion, be permitted to incite or coerce by threats or any form of intimidation men who desire to give their labour.

Of late years, however, the situation has become intolerable. The men openly proclaim what they would do in case of a war. They threaten a general strike—forgetting, however, that such a strike is by no means bound to succeed. A general strike implies the embracing of all departments of industry. That requires discipline. Whatever little discipline organised labour ever had is now almost entirely lacking.

"Peaceful Persuasion."

"Picketing," or "peaceful persuasion," as defined by trade unionists, is likely to have a severe shock in the coming struggle. The railway companies are detemined to protect their non-union servants. They have met and discussed the whole matter, and a general agreement has been arrived at.

Mine Owners' Rejoinder.

Colliery owners assert that the miners were never satisfied until they obtained the eight hours shift—now they have got it they are still dissatisfied, because the owners work three eight hours shifts instead of two in the day, because they say it would not pay to work a pit 16 hours in the day. There is the question of insurance to consider, while their office expenses and the salaries of their managers, etc., are not increased. Hence it is claimed that the workers got what they asked for, and then invented a pretext for a fresh grievance.

Minimum Wage.

A minimum wage of 8s. a day for miners and 5s. a day for labourers is asked. The owners say this cannot be granted, as miners, like workmen in other industries, differ very much in physique and disposition. A man who is paid a daily wage requires a certain amount of supervision; a minimum daily wage would mean an additional staff of ganger supervisors. It cannot, and will not, be done. Moreover, they warn their employees that if they were wise they would never ask it—as their own common-sense should tell them that in such an event it would mean that only the strongest and most competent miners would find work. The owners threaten that should the men's demand be pushed to such an extent that the Government intervenes and forces the minimum wage system upon them, then a great number of pits which are now run at a loss, or hardly pay at all, will be immediately stopped.

Work in Abnormal Places.

It is admitted that in certain sections of most pits coal is more difficult to get than in others. In such abnormal cases the owners are quite prepared to concede a reasonable wage. After very exhaustive enquiries amongst mine-owners, only one conclusion can be arrived at, namely, that they are by no means unreasonable, but, on the contrary, eager to come to any just settlement of the dispute. However, taking the railway directors and mine-owners as a whole, we can come to no other conclusion than that, should Labour assert itself in too aggressive a form, we are on the high road to a struggle that will bring misery to thousands.

THE SALVATION ARMY AT BOXTED.

WHOLESALE EVICTIONS.—CONFISCATION OF TENANTS' IMPROVEMENTS.

[The following letters are, we believe, but all too true comments upon the huge blunder that "General" Booth committed when he tried to found a colony of small holders with the gift of £40,000 which the late Mr. George Herring left, under certain conditions. The scheme from the first was doomed to failure. "General" Booth believed that he could make Boxted a success by placing on it families which belonged to the general unemployed classes and which had no practical experience of market gardening or general farming. As all the world knows, only those who have a genius for the land can make successful small farmers, their knowledge requiring to be both practical and comprehensive. The revolt of the small holders at Boxted is not one against small holdings as such. It is a revolt against the system, the management, and the conditions of lease which are now being found out to have been made on the assumption that there were to be no bad harvests down Colchester way. The most serious aspect of the failure is that with it goes George Herring's £40,000 and the eventual possession of the estate to the Salvation Army. The matter demands the attention of the Charity Commissioners, who should to enquires into the working of all charity schemes for the placing of people on the land.]

SALVATION ARMY BAILIFFS AND EVICTIONS.

I have before me a letter which I send you in good faith, proving what the Salvation Army are doing to provide the poor in Darkest England with a way out. The letter is written by a heartbroken mother, who says:—

> We are living on the Boxted Small Holdings as one of the settlers. We came here with honest, hard-working characters, which the Salvation Army are doing their utmost to take away from us, as well as our home, which they take away to-morrow, leaving me with nothing but my beds. They take the furniture which my father has given me. Can they do this?
>
> But the worst part is this: My husband, finding we had no living, took a situation at his trade (carpenter) some distance away, where he can only get home once a week. The Salvation Army, knowing this, have put a man in possession since last Tuesday. He(being more of a gentleman than any Salvation Army officer I have yet met), finding I was respectable, has done his best to make things as comfortable as possible under the circumstances, for which I thank him.
>
> Now, even if I had enough money to get away, how could I take a house with no furniture to put in? I have four children, 8, 6, 4 and 1 year of age; my husband is not in a permanent situation, and may be put off any week when they slacken hands on the firm. Some of our fellow settlers are doing the best they can for us, although they may all be in the same boat with us unless something is done to show the whole affair up and make the Salvation Army do justice to us. They have allowed us to come here (in many cases giving up good jobs to do so, ourselves among the number) on to starved, filthy land; then because we cannot pay the rent, have the power to sell our homes up. Is this right? **No!**

WANTED, A MAN.

It is not right, it is not Christianity, it is as bad as the extortions and inhumanities of Kirkwood or the worst of the money-lending sharks. It is the same kind of villainy that fired Charles Bradlaugh's blood to boiling point and taught him what the merciless powers of Irish landlords were, and made him quit the Army in disgust. Is there in the Salvation Army no man of humane feeling, no strong fearless friend of the oppressed, who will tell this evictor of the poor and penniless to take his beak from out their hearts? Not only are the labours and improvements of "General" Booth's victims confiscated, but all the processes of the law are employed to turn tenants out to perish in frost or snow, penniless and plundered of al, the while we are singing "Peace on earth, goodwill towards men." I appeal to JOHN BULL on behalf of these Boxted tenants. Would that George Herring were alive to-day to see what "General" Booth is doing with his money! He would be the first to horsewhip the extortioners and grinders of the faces of the poor, and tell the Boxted tenants to defy the "General" and keep a firm grip on their holdings. By doing this they would arouse the public conscience.

HUMAN DOCUMENT.—CLXXIII.

[In this column, every week, we publish particulars of some human derelict whose case, after full investigation, we are able to recommend to the charity of our readers. We are happy to say that in this way we have already been the means of bringing comfort into many a wretched home. All amounts subscribed are duly acknowledged, and no deduction of any kind is made by us.]

A FAMILY BEGGARED BY AN ACCIDENT.

The subject of this appeal is a married man with a wife and three little children. Until about nine months ago he was in regular employment as a fruiterer's salesman, and all was going well with him. Then calamity came. Whilst cleaning his windows at home he slipped and fell three or four feet. The distance was not great, but unhappily for him he fell badly, and the result was a double rupture. Since then he has been unable to follow his usual occupation, which, as many of our readers no doubt know, means standing twelve or fourteen hours a day. He has done his best to get other employment, but without success. Gradually his little belongings have shrunk. When taken ill he had three comfortably furnished rooms. Now the five of them live in one room, he having had to pledge or sell almost everything he owned in order to live. His two little girls are suffering from bronchitis, and his wife is in very delicate health. Though willing, she is unable to earn anything just now to keep the pot boiling. If any of our readers could obtain the poor man a light situation we are sure he would do credit to their recommendation, and if they would send us a little money to enable him, and his, to get a little food, and to recover some of the clothing that has had to go to the pawnshop, he would be very grateful indeed.

We have received the following amounts which we have duly forwarded to the subjects of the "Human Documents" named:—

CLXVII.—M. G. D., 2s. 6d.

CLXVIII.—M. G. D., 2s. 6d.

CLXIX.—K. & G., 1s; M. G. D., 2s. 6d., K. & G., 1s.

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"JOHN BULL'S" CHRISTMAS FUND.

A LAST APPEAL FOR FOR THE POOR.

We make a final earnest appeal to the generosity of our readers to enable us, at the approaching Christmas season, to distribute gifts of food, clothing, toys, etc., amongst the London poor. Upon previous occasions the response has been most gratifying, and we feel sure that the same will be the case again this year. First, we want money with which we buy orders upon local butchers, bakers, grocers, and others, enabling the recipients to obtain food and take it to their own homes for consumption, a course much preferable to crowding them into public buildings in the old-fashioned way. Every subscription will be duly acknowledged in our columns. Secondly we want left-off clothing of all shapes and sizes. This we will have carefully sorted out by the hands of willing workers, and made into suitable "lots," corresponding with numbered orders which will be given by our helpers to those most in need of the things. Thirdly, we want toys for the little ones to help to brighten their dismal homes at Christmas time. We guarantee that they shall be wisely and well distributed. We can also do with boxes of oranges, sweets, fruit, crackers—in short, anything likely to bring a little happiness, if only for a few days, into the homes of the poor.

All subscriptions should be forwarded to us here, but everything else should be addressed to JOHN BULL's Depot, 45a, Cambridge Road, Cambridge Heath, London, E.

A final list of subscriptions will be published next week.

WHAT IS YOUR NUMBER?

SEE PAGE iii. OF COVER.

A "DISMAL JEMMY" AND THE "MELANCHOLY DEAN."

A CHRISTMAS SUGGESTION.

BY BASIL WARRE.

Recognising that imitation is the sincerest form of flattery, the Rev. F. S. Webster, Rector of All Souls', Langham Place, is trying to go one better than the Dean of St. Paul's, who finds the world so out of joint that even his promotion to a fat sinecure and £2,000 per annum does not satisfy him. The Rector out-morbids the gloomy Dean, and puts, so to speak, the extinguisher or fool's cap on his brother performer by a letter to his flock in which he says: "In view of the many causes for national anxiety, it seems almost a mockery to think of wishing each other a merry Christmas."

I do not like to think of this good man shutting himself off from all Christmas festivities and joining his brother croaker, the Dean, in selections from Harvey's "Meditations Amongst the Tombs." I want both to "buck up," and, with this laudable purpose, I venture to suggest a way by which they can banish their and other people's gloom and make this Christmas memorable for ever in the annals of the Church. Let the Melancholy Dean and Dismal Jemmy join with the Rev. F. B. Meyer and Mr. W. T. Stead and offer Mr. Arthur Collins their services, dancing the "Pas de quartre" in his Christmas pantomime at Drury Lane. I am sure it would do their livers good, and remove their "beautiful blue views of life," and, as for laughter, their "turn" would convulse not only all London but really benefit the whole universe, which is more than the "kill-joys" are now doing. Here is a chance for them to honestly earn some money, and I hope they won't neglect it.

"A FRIENDLY LEAD" FOR THE CROAKERS.

I don't suppose my "glumancolly" friends would object to a "friendly lead" to help them to happiness, and I am sure my expansive friend, Jimmy Glover, would regard it as a labour of love to write special music for their novel turn. The Dean would not need any dressing for the part. He would shine with virtue resplendent as "Dean Twinklefeeto," the allurement of the "wiggly woggles" of his "tootsies" set off by his dainty gaiters and bashful dropping apron.

THE "ENCYCLOPÆDIA BRITANNICA" AND CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY.

"IF YOU SEE IT IN 'JOHN BULL'. . . ."

Our readers will remember that some time ago we criticised somewhat severely certain advertisement matter, issued apparently with the knowledge and authority of the Syndics of the Press, and bearing upon the desirability of purchasing the new edition of the "Encyclopædia Britannica." We have now received a copy of a circular letter which is being sent to graduates of the Cambridge University, and is signed by Archdeacon Cunningham and other influential members. The circular says that in their opinion the reputation of the University has been injured by the representations that have been made in advertising the work, and that the reappointment of anyone who has shared the responsibility of the syndicate in connection with the publication of the "Encyclopædia Britannica," might be regarded as the formal acceptance by the Senate of a policy generally condemned by members of the University. It is pointed out that no information has been given as to the rights which the University has acquired and the obligations which it has incurred. Statements have been put forward that the University has undertaken the publication as part of a definite educational policy, and the Prefatory Note appearing in the first volume, and dated from Cambridge, suggests to anyone who is not acquainted with the facts that the University is responsible for the preparation and production of the work. We are glad to have this valuable confirmation of the line we have throughout adopted in regard to the matter.

IN our Christmas number appeared a sketch entitled "The Story," by Ian Campbell, whom we stated to be Editor of the *Novel Magazine*. As considerable misunderstanding has arisen through this, Mr. Scotland Liddell has asked us to explain that "Ian Campbell" is a pen-name of his.

CHOOSING A CLERK.

OUR SUSPICIONS JUSTIFIED.

In our issue of last week we directed attention to the advertisement of the St. Pancras Board of Guardians for a Clerk to the Justices of the Petty Sessional Division of St. Pancras, a position worth about £350 per annum, and we asked if someone in power had not a son, and if that son had not already been selected amongst candidates provisionally chosen.

It turns out that our scepticism was justified. A gentleman in every way qualified for the position applied for it, amongst others, and in due course received a letter from Mr. E. Barnes, the Chairman of the Magistrates, informing him that the Committee had chosen him as one of five to be interviewed. Accordingly, the gentleman in question appeared before the Committee, and having answered a few perfunctory questions, withdrew. On the same day he received from Mr. Barnes a letter, which runs as follows:—"I am directed by the Committee appointed *re* election of Clerk, to return your testimonials and to thank you for your application." Mr. Barnes's son had been chosen! We have nothing to say against this gentleman personally, but he does not appear to have any special or, indeed, the necessary qualifications for the position. The gentleman to whom we referred above does not complain that he was not selected, but he does say that one of the applicants, Mr. Bodkin, had pre-eminent claims to the position. Mr. Bodkin has been doing the work of the office for some time on behalf of the late Clerk, and for 80 years past the position has been held by a member of his firm. We are not suggesting that the appointment should be a sort of freehold of any firm, but in this case Mr. Bodkin's claims were admittedly very strong, and if he was to be put aside for someone else, it seems to us that it ought not to have been for the son of the Chairman of the Magistrates, a man with nothing in the way of special qualifications.

"JOHN BULL'S" BIRTHDAY ODES.

BY "RETLAW."

December 27th.—THE DUKE OF NORFOLK.

Let not the natal day go by
Of Henry FitzAlan-Howard,
Without at least a feeble try
To tell the blessings on him showered!
His titles take some time to tell:—
He is the Earl of Arundel,
Baron Maltravers also, he,
As well as Earl of Surrey,
And Baron Clun and Oswaldestre,—
Nay, be not in a hurry!
I've scarcely started to relate
What titles rest upon his pate!
Oh, well; we'll take the rest as read,
And strike a lowlier lyre instead.

In every servant's hall this day
Let cook, and footman, maid and page
Rejoice and be exceeding gay
And in the lightsome dance engage;
And let the housekeeper severe
Unbend for once and be right merry;
And let the butler, too, appear
With bottled port, and hock, and sherry!
Then, when your glasses fairly brim,
Raise them and shout this toast to him:—

"The Duke of Norfolk! honoured man,
Great chief of the domestic clan;
Hail, sovereign of the servant's hall,
May countless blessings on you fall;
Though rich, may Lloyd George never loot you;
ENGLAND'S CHIEF BUTLER, we salute you!"

DON'T FORGET OUR CHRISTMAS FUND FOR THE POOR.

SEE PAGE 907.

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THE OUTLOOK.

FROM TWO POINTS OF VIEW.

BY RICHARD MORTON.

[A little story, showing how the philosophy of Mr. Gloom and Mr. Glum was interrupted and influenced by the arrival of a strange visitor.]

Mr. Gloom and Mr. Glum, having finished their day's work in the City, had returned to their desirable villa residences in Dullwich. Each had scowlingly swallowed an evening meal, grumbling over the quality and the quantity provided by a saddened and rather despairing wife, and then Mr. Gloom had withdrawn himself to the privacy of his own den, or private growlery, being presently joined therein by Mr. Glum.

It is the habit of Messrs. Gloom and Glum to spend their evenings in this fashion. They regularly desert their wives, for which mercy those ladies really should be grateful, and pass their time in making one another more miserable than ever. One evening is spent by Gloom at Glum's house, the next sees Glum with Gloom.

When you come to think of it, it is remarkable how many men make it a regular practice, after being out all day, to spend the evening also away from home and wife and family. It is not only the Glooms and Glums who are deserters of this kind. Mr. Merry and Mr. Bright also pop out nightly to the billiard table or the club. If they visit each other's house now and then it is for a little card party, from which the wife is barred.

Gloom and Glum shut themselves up on the occasion under notice with a glass apiece, a decanter and the sugar on the table, and a kettle singing on the fire. Anybody else would have been cheerful.

But Glum was not. "Goodness knows what things are coming to," he muttered. "Look abroad. There's Italy and Turkey still at it, China convulsed with fire and slaughter, Russia on the pounce in Persia, Germany dying to fight somebody, if she can only feel sure of winning; France getting cocky, Portugal unsafe, and Spain shaky, while we have our own little war with the Abors. Talk about 'Peace on earth'! Bah! I hate the piffle."

Gloom growlingly agreed with his brother pessimist. "You need not look abroad if you are looking for trouble. What about England? Aren't we being taxed out of existence? Aren't the rates here high enough to break the Bank of England? And why should we have to pay sixpence extra for every bottle of whisky? It's shameful, that's what it is."

"Look at the price of food," he said. "Bacon for breakfast is almost impossible; sugar's up, jam's up, and even frozen meat is twice the price it used to be. I tell you what it is—we're going to the dogs, we are. . . . I'll help myself if you don't mind."

They both drew closer to the fire, and Gloom had another bout. "There's manhood suffrage next year. That will swamp the middle classes, and make it worse than ever for us. We're being fleeced and taxed and bled into our graves, and it will be better for us when we get there. Fancy charging me threepence a week because the missis keeps a slavey. I'd like to see that Lloyd George boiled. 'Goodwill towards men,' indeed! It doesn't exist."

"Yes, it does," said a third voice.

They turned sharply round. A red-faced, white-whiskered old gentleman was in the room.

"Goodwill does exist," said the stranger, "but perhaps not in such company as yours. You ought to be ashamed of yourselves, sitting here grumbling and growling. Isn't it Christmas-time? What should you be doing? Why, thinking about the kiddies and the poor, and doing something to make them happy. Then you'd be happy yourselves, instead of being the miserable objects you are. What's the use of worrying over your petty troubles? Wake up, cheer up, smile—and help."

With that the old gentleman took his departure in the most remarkable fashion. He went up the chimney!

Accidentally he kicked the kettle over. That awoke Gloom and Glum.

"I say," said Gloom, "don't let us mope any more. Let's take the wives out shopping."

"And the young 'uns to the bazaar to-morrow."

"And not worry about anything at all—not till Christmas is over, anyway!"

LETTERS FROM JANE ANN.

[Being communications from a young person to her friends and relations.]

BY MOORE ANKING.

THE DURDLES,
DIDDLESTON.

DEAR MOTHER,—Almost before you get this I shall be in the train, and when the driver comes to the side-door with his whip, I shan't be long telling him where to go, you bet. I been writing H-o-m-e with my finger on every bit of dusty furnicher I could find. One or two of the girls haven't seemed to like it, so yester-day for a change I chalked it on the dust-bin and then I put their names underneath. That seemed to make more ill-feeling, though I don't know why, I'm sure. I'm not one to make unplessantness, mother, you know that, and a dust-bin isn't nearly as nice to write on as the top of a table or back of a chair, cause you have to make the letters much more bigger if you want them to be reedable. I thought it would be nice when the girls woke up of a morning to see their names on the dust-bin and know that with all their failings they weren't quite for-gotten. One thing, mother, when I'm not here they'll know I've gone. That's when they'll miss me.

About the Chrissmas dinner, mother, I s'pose you got the club paid up all right. If not you can take the stamps back with, and welcome. P'raps you can pull 'em off the paper they're stuck to, I couldn't. But whatever you do, mother, if you get a goose or anything like that don't go and stuff the beast with dried peas like you did father's turkey. Boil 'em first, we don't want no ex-plosion, and it won't seem a bit like Chrissmas if we have to stand on the table and scrape our dinner off the sealing.

I'm enclosing one or two letters. Send 'em round for me, old queen, but for goodness sake don't mix them up. Send Bert's first.

x x Your loving and gentle off-spring, x x
JANE ANN.

[FOR AUNTIE.]

DEAR AUNT MARGARET,—I don't know if mother's told you I'm coming home again. I've got that nervus, auntie, you wouldn't bleeve how I feel. And all on account of the male person who wants to be a husband to me if I'll only let him. Oh dear, I am worried about it. I don't know reelly whether I ought to take a ticket and travel under the seat, or get in a tub marked Vitrol Don't Touch and ride among the hampers and things back of the train.

One thing, auntie, I've found out the person's name. It's Bertram. That's as much as I know or want to know, auntie. As I told him in my last letter, he better mind what he's up to, 'cause if he was on for miss-chief two could play at that game. P'raps that'll make him careful, auntie, but then one never knows, does one?

Of course, auntie, I shall be guided by your advice.

Your niece with great respeckt,
J. A.

[FOR MY BERT.]

YOU DEAR OLD SWEET,—Has ma told you I'm coming home for Chrissmas, has she? Well if not, I am, so you know what to ex-peckt. x xx xxx xxxxxxxxxxxxxxx Piece of time-table enclosed, ducky, tells you the time I shall arrive to the minnit.

I don't know, darling, if I ever told you about my silly old aunt. Shouldn't wonder if she comes to the station, that is if her chest is in working order, she being a great sufferer from con-fusion in the lung-box, or thinks she is.

Anyway, pet lamb, if you should see me snatched by a long, tall, cold and hungry creecher with a face like the book of Job, you better keep off the grass, loved one, unless you can find something I've dropped, or save me from getting run over, so's you can press my hand. Leave you to manidge that part, angel.

I can't hardly keep cool, Bert love, and yesterday I put my late-and-earlies on wrong way up, and then wondered why the blouse had such big sleeves. Oh Bert!

Get ready to make a fuss of me, only one?! xxxxxx
J. A.

[FOR MY DEAR FRIEND, PEGGY.]

DEAR PEGGY,—I dessay I shall be coming home after Chrissmas—more towards the New Year, or p'raps not till Easter, but if all goes well I'm sure to be home by Whitsun, p'raps before.

Not sure, dear, if I shall go back to service, once I get home. Wish I could tell you ex-actly when I'm coming.

x Your true and sym-pathising friend, x
J. A.

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OPEN LETTERS, POSTCARDS, AND TELEGRAMS.

To Santa Claus, Esq., Noel Mansion, Bullionworth, Christendom.

MY DEAR SANTA,—Twelve months have passed since you last heard from me, and I dare say your first exclamation on receiving this letter will be, "Exactly what I expected; here is that JOHN BULL begging Christmas-boxes again." Certainly I will plead guilty to that, my good fellow, but if I write only once a twelvemonth it is not because I forget you—how could I?—and if then but to beg, it is because the beggar always returns to the gate which he has never known clashed in his face. Besides, the missis and myself have to bring up such an enormous and ever-increasing family, and what with the tax collector, and the rate collector, and the gas collector, and the insurance collector, and the landlord and this, that and the other, you will understand it is a mighty hard struggle at times.

I am not going to make too dismal a song of it, and as a matter of fact some of the family are doing rather well. On the other hand, some of them are doing less than middling, and others of them shocking badly; they are down at heels and out at elbows, often hungry and despairing, without a home and without a bed, except such as they get when they drag their shivering bodies into an outhouse or a barn, or sink down on the bosom of Mother Earth beneath the black arch of the sky. Of course you have seen them. All the years of your travels round and round and up and down you must have taken note of this awful human wreckage—men, and women, and even little children clutching at floating crusts to buoy them up in the rushing, pitiless waters in which they are struggling to live. Then there are others of the family in physical pain, whose eyes will never again light with gladness at the sound of Christmas bells; others, too, who are distressed by mental anxiety, drinking deeply of the cup of misfortune and wrong; and then in homes which seem so fair and prosperous without that even you have passed them by without glance or thought, silent poor ones who never complain and never advertise, who hide their poverty and keep a brave and proud heart before the wolf at the door.

So you see, my dear Santa, I am not entirely without excuse for this annual begging letter of mine; indeed, I will not offend by excuses one whose heart is as big as his purse, and whose acrobatic nimbleness in dropping down chimneys, wriggling through keyholes, and creeping through cracks in tumble-down shanties in the dead of night is the admiration of the world. This Christmas I trust you will not forget anybody whose necessities demand your special thoughtfulnes. Last Christmas, if I rightly remember, a great many of the family were forgotten, or, at any rate, missed; and what made it the harder was that most of them were feeble old men, or wan-eyed women, or stunted, starving kiddies in obscure courts and alleys. I expect you did not commence your rounds early enough, or did not take sufficient cash with you. This Christmas you had better start out earlier and load up a few more pantechnicons with gold and goods. In several instances I heard of your heaping up a superfluity of good things in the homes of my opulent sons and daughters, but I put that down to people giving you inaccurate addresses. I advise you to look up the directory yourself this time. The way I regard it is this: If all my boys and girls who have more than they need would hand it over quickly to those who have less than they need, a great deal of work would be taken off your hands, and many thousands of the Bull family would have a much happier and a much merrier Christmas than they have had for many a long year.

Give everybody a good time if you can, but start with those who require it most, even if you leave the others to rub along as best they can; you can take it from me they will look after themselves very early and very well. I do not think I have anything more to say, except that I trust you will enjoy yourself (as usual) in making all the Bulls happy. God bless you! With sincere and seasonable regards (and expectations) from the family of Bull at home and abroad, also from self for auld lang syne,

JOHN BULL.

To W. W. Greenhalgh, Esq., Town Clerk, Wakefield.

DEAR MR. TOWN CLERK,—I notice your elective auditors, Mr. A. N. Green and Mr. H. G. Keighley, are much concerned in regard to the tendency of members of the Council to overdo the refreshment business, and for the officials to overdo cab and taxi hire in their various departments. For instance, the members of the General Works Committee have a meeting and order in 5s. 3d. worth of cigars—the best which can be got at five a shilling, I assume. Subsequently they meet to view a street, and they feel they cannot do it properly without spending £1 15s. 9d. on "teas" and 13s. 6d. on cigars. Then the Committee—I am not quite clear whether they are the same lot—go down to inspect the Sewerage Works—well, to be candid, inspecting sewerage works must be very trying; they spend £1 9s. in whisky, cigars, and cigarettes. It is rather curious, however, that when they next go down to regard the Sewerage Works they indulge in a remarkable orgie of teetotalism; without a single word of warning to the ratepayers, they indulge themselves in £1 8s. 3d. worth of teas, and when it is time to have a meeting at the electricity works they lie low and say nothing. Bang goes £1 15s. but whether it goes in Scotch or balloon juice, or Flor de Woodbines, the elective auditors do not appear to know.

Then there are the officials, my dear sir. Now Wakefield is rather smaller than London, and I agree with the auditors that the gentlemen of the surveyor's, electrical, sanitary, and waterworks departments ought to do rather more walking. If they don't, they are in danger of getting atropy of the gastrocnemius and plantaris, when they will certainly have no alternative between taxis heen stretchers. In one half-year £32 7s. 3d. has vanished through these departments being wheeled about Wakefield in one form or another. It may be they get up too late in the morning and call the taxis to wheel them to their respective sites so as to arrive in time to be wheeled out to lunch or it may be they think a sanitary department, for instance, looks more impressive in a taxi than on its legs. Be this as it may, I am requested by a large number of over-burdened Wakefield ratepayers, who have wondered where their money goes and imagine they are now finding out, to ask you to bring up the elective auditors' revelations for discussion at the next meeting of the Council

JOHN BULL.

To His Honour Judge Snagge, County Court, Birmingham.

MY DEAR SNAGGE,—Accept my cordial good wishes in the campaign which you and other County Court judges are conducting from the bench against that monstrous survival of days when "one might as well be hung for a sheep as a lamb"—imprisonment for debt, which I regard as one of the most flagrant hypocrisies of our legal system. Professing that the metaphorical hanging for the lamb has been abolished, the law retains it as hanging for "contempt of court." Possibly the fact that this baneful system produces a revenue of some £40,000 a year in fees is responsible for its continuance. But not even the loss of this blood money should be allowed to hinder reform. That there is a certain class of not over-scrupulous credit traders which would regret this lever of extortion and oppression being struck out of its hands goes without the saying, but because it is a lever of extortion and oppression it is wrong, and I most heartily agree with you and most of your colleagues of the County Court bench that Parliament ought to put an end to it. I must see what I can do next session.

JOHN BULL.

To His Grace the Duke of Fife.

SIR,—Congratulations on escape of wife and daughter from the *Delhi* wreck. I admire their pluck and resource. But, as regards yourself, how annoyed you must have been to be mistaken in your "nighty" for a lady, and, against your will, pushed into the first boat whilst all the time shouting, "Save the women and children first!" Another time you must wear pyjamas!

JOHN BULL.

Lloyd George, Chancellor Exchequer.

Merry Christmas. Hope Christmas will bring rare and refreshing fruit to your parched lips. Must be awfully dry after so much talking.

BULL.

THE "EXPLODED" CRACKER—

AND THE MOTTO IT CONTAINED.

JOHN BULL IN THE CITY.

By Verax.

THE PREVAILING PESSIMISM—FALSE RUMOURS—PROSPECTS FOR 1912, HOWEVER, BRIGHT ENOUGH.

Apart from a few sensational speculative deals as in *London General Omnibus*, in *Union-Castle shipping* shares, in *Marconis*, etc., the stock markets are obsessed by an obstinate pessimism, which prevents any permanent improvement and scoffs at really favourable developments so effectively that they are disregarded, while in happier times they would have caused strong advances. Thus the *Home railway* market is receiving merely professional support, and the investing public holds aloof. False rumours are circulated, the collapse of sound mines is predicted when there is absolutely no basis for the rumours, and when the official contradiction arrives, other lying reports take their place. I wonder who can have been responsible for the rumour which prevailed a whole day last week, that King George had been assassinated at Delhi? Yet at one time the lie received extraordinary currency. Then again, such a union of powerful interests as is represented by the amalgamation of the *Rhodesia Exploration Company* (capital £1,537,000) with the *Goldfields Rhodesia Development Company* (capital £1,017,500), the assets of which must exceed five millions sterling, would, under other circumstances, have caused a sharp rise in the prices of these and other shares instead of the prevailing inertia. The written statement forwarded by Sir Julius Wernher (who, to general regret, has not yet quite recovered from his protracted illness) from the sick room to the meeting of Fraser and Chalmers, was quite pathetic. He remarked that the *Transvaal gold fields* had not been in favour lately, but he could not imagine that an industry producing £35,000,000 per annum was likely permanently to take a back seat, and that the fashion to cry it down would change again. "Some people would examine again, find out the good things, and buy because they would find the return good enough. By the way, the speculation in *Nigerian tin mines* is proceeding merrily, but though the higher prices in some instances may be justified, they are altogether excessive in others, and I must emphatically condemn the private introduction into the Stock Exchange at a premium of shares of such concerns as the *Naraguta Extended*, with a capital of £160,000, but without any official information. The *Yankee market* maintains its mercurial character, but the big men in Wall Street are determined to maintain prices, and the *American copper interests* are certainly succeeding in raising the price of the metal. *Canadian Pacifics* have not fully maintained the rise caused by the announcement of a new issue to the shareholders of 18 million new stock at 150, which provides a bonus of from 8 to 9 dol. *Japanese* stocks experienced a strong rally, as I said they would. *Argentine Rails* are also a strong feature; and *Rubber* has experienced a partial rise, chiefly the *Plantation* kinds, but *Para* has eased again, and there is an absence of investment demand in *Rubber shares*. The last weeks of the Old Year usually bring very stiff money, but the Bank of England is in a strong position, and should, in the New Year, again obtain all the Cape gold, so that the outlook for 1912, as foreign politics have now settled down, is distinctly bright.

THE FATE OF RECENT NEW ISSUES—PROMOTERS' FOLLY.

I sounded a note of warning last week with regard to the haste with which promoters were falling over each other to bring their wares to market in the closing weeks of the year, and I more especially singled out the *Canadian Northern Ontario Railway* issue of £7,000,000 as most injudiciously brought out at the present juncture. The fact that underwriters were left with 90 per cent. of this issue fully confirms my view, and I should also like to state that the slipshod and niggardly manner in which this big issue was brought before the public contributed to its failure. I said last week that our Canadian cousins would soon wear their welcome out if they were to continue to practise their present promoting policy. *Canadian Northern Ontario Railway 3½ Per Cent.*, an otherwise gilt-edged stock, stand at 1¼—1 dis., *Alberta Land 5 Per Cent. Debentures*, an issue of the Canadian Agency, at 1 dis. to par, while the *Canadian West National Gas 5 Per Cent. Debentures*, one of the weakest of the issues, being, moreover, quite an obscure concern, has dropped to 5½—4½ discount. Again, *North Coast Lands 5 Per Cent. Debentures*, a Vancouver promotion, have been very badly received, and stand at only 2½—1½ discount. This finishes the list of Canadian issues, but my readers will see from the following table that a good many others have proved unsuccessful:—

RECENT ISSUES.

	Issue Price.	Present Price
Alberta Land 5 per cent. Debs.	95	1 dis.—par
Baku City 5 per cent.	96	½ dis.—par
Canadian West Nat. Gas 5 per cent. Debs.	90	5½—4½ dis
Lima City 5 per cent.	93½	2—1 dis
Mex. Light and Power 5 per cent. 2nd Debs.	87	½ dis.—par
North Coast Lands 5 per cent. Debs.	98	2½—1½ dis
Puebla Tram. L. & P. Prior Lien 5 per cent.	95	3—1 dis.
Russian Railway 4½ per cent. Debs.	97½	½ dis.—½ prem.
Salvador Term. 5½ per cent.	90	½ dis.—½ prem.
San Antonio Land 6 per cent.	99	½ dis.—½ prem.
Sorocabana Railway 4½ per cent. Debs.	86½	2—1½ dis.
S. Paulo City Improvements 6 per cent. 1st Mt.	99½	½ dis.—½ prem.
Canada North Ontario 3½ per cent.	93	1½—1 dis.
Southern Nigeria 4 per cent.	99½	5/16—3/16 dis.
Chilian 5 per cent. 1911 (2nd Ser.)	93½	1-16 dis.—1/32 prem.
Southern Punjab Railway 4 per cent. Preference	10	1—¾ dis.

Thus, *Lima City 5 Per Cents.* are down at 2—1 discount, and *Mexican Light and Power 5 Per Cent. Second Debentures*, one of the Canadian promotions, has also to take a back seat at ½ discount to par. The auspices under which the *Puebla Tramway L. and P. Prior Lien 5 Per Cent.* was brought out were unexceptionable, yet, through bungling in making the issue, the quotation is only from 3 to 1 discount. The underwriters of many of these various issues have been left with from 50 to 60 per cent. on their hands, and *San Antonio Land 6 Per Cent.*, issued at 99, are actually going begging at 98-97. This is really calculated to interfere with Brazilian credit. Again, *Sorocabana Railway 4½ Per Cent. Debentures*, at a discount of from 2 to 1½ per cent. on the issued price of 86½, are in a most unenviable position. One of the least objectionable is the *San Paulo City Improvements 6 Per Cent. First Mortgage Bonds* at ½ discount to ½ premium, while it cannot have pleased holders of the *Southern Nigeria 4 Per Cents.* to see their stock still standing at about ⅛ discount. The *Chilian 5 Per Cent. Loan* of 1911 came out at a big premium, but it has not taken long to convert that premium into a discount; but *Southern Punjab Railway 4 Per Cent. Prefs.* seem to be fair value. It appears to me to have been most unwise to bring out a number of large issues at the fag-end of the year, entirely against usual procedure, and it is fortunate that the advent of the Christmas holidays will put an end to this stupid promotion-mongering. Once the year has turned it is more likely that the market will be able to absorb some of the new issues.

FURTHER RISE IN SHIPPING SHARES—ANOTHER JUMP IN UNION-CASTLES.

On December 2nd I drew attention to Shipping shares, which were then very active, and have, in fact, enjoyed a considerable demand since, a further rise in *Union-Castle* shares of 11 points to 31, and an improvement of 8 in *Royal Mail* to 95, standing out as important movements. With regard to the rise in *Union-Castle* shares, important banking interests are said to have absorbed some of these shares, but the control has been obtained by the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company and by Messrs. Elder, Dempster and Co. The Morgan group has, of course, once before acquired the White Star Line, and several other Atlantic lines, but although matters are now looking better than they did some time ago, they have by no means scored in the matter. As regards the Cunard Company, the reorganisation scheme of the capital has created a favourable impression, as bringing about a freer market for the various issues. Briefly, the ordinary capital would only amount to about one-quarter per cent. of the total capital, so that any increase in dividends will be so much to its gain. In other words, the additional 1 per cent. dividend on the old ordinary shares is 2½ per cent. more on the new ordinary capital. In fact, it is considered that when the new arrangements are made the new ordinary and preference shares will be worth at least par in the market. There, again, some well-informed buying has lately been in progress in the ordinary shares of the *General Steam Navigation Company*, which have come up this year from 5 to 7. This is still below the face value of the shares, which is £7 10s. apiece, and of which there are issued 25,328. There are also issued 36,758 6 per cent. preference £8 shares, quoted at 8⅛, and £150,000 4 per cent. first mortgage debenture stock, quoted at 99. Since the reorganisation of the company dividends on the ordinary shares have been on a rising scale, and for 1910 the distribution was 6 per cent. The character of the recent buying would suggest that either an increase in the dividend for the current year is anticipated or that some other important development is impending, which should make for a further rise in the face value of the shares, if not more.

OILS IN THE DUMPS—NON-SUCCESS OF THE TRINIDAD DEBENTURE ISSUE.

It showed more courage than prudence on the part of those responsible for the *Trinidad Oilfields* debenture issue to launch the same in the present condition of the oil-share market, and the result was a foregone conclusion. The underwriters have had to take up the greater part of the debentures, and I cannot hear of any quotation for the same. It must be admitted that oil companies' debentures are not in favour with investors, to judge from the level at which most of these stand—viz., *Commonwealth 5½ per Cent. Debentures* at 72½, *British Burmah Debentures* at 63½, etc. I hear that some other oil companies have new debenture and other issues on the board, but, of course, the time is not propitious for such emissions. In the meantime, *Shell Transports* have fluctuated considerably, although showing a substratum of firmness at about 81s. on news from Amsterdam that the oil war is actually strengthening the position of the Company. This is all very well as far as it goes, but it will prove cold comfort to most other companies. A feature has been the slump in *Spies* to 27s., followed by some recovery to 27s. 6d., on the maintenance of the interim dividend of 9d. per share, but the future course of the shares must depend upon the success, or otherwise, of the efforts now being made to surmount the water trouble. *Mexican Eagle* are firm at 28s. 6d. on the news that a commencement has been made with the transport of oil to the seaboard. The *Maikop* group has been very quiet, but there are not wanting indications of inside support, and really I should not be surprised if these shares took a turn for the better in the New Year, especially Black Sea Oilfields and Maikop Victory, the production of which is still steadily increasing from week to week. By the way, however, where is that dividend on *Black Sea Preferred*, which was foreshadowed some weeks ago? The news of the completion of the *Ural Caspian* deal has proved a damp squib, and the shares are actually lower at 1⅝. The *Egyptian* group has been firm, especially *Red Seas* at 25-32.

THE POLICE AND THE ALLEGED BUCKET-SHOP FRAUDS—MORE PROSECUTIONS.

Last Saturday persons connected with the Equitable Exchange, of Bishopsgate, London, outside brokers, were charged at the Guildhall with conspiring to defraud the public and remanded, bail being refused. The three persons alleged to be implicated are Walter Cousins, Ernest Jacques and Edgar Gordon. It was alleged that something like £30,000 had been obtained from the public. The concern has been commented upon in these columns. In the meantime, the affairs of Herbert Culliford, Stanley Culliford and Joseph John Lovesay are being investigated by the stipendiary in Birmingham, in connection with alleged bucket-shop frauds by their firm, T. Morton Harris and Co., of Birmingham, whose circulars have frequently been referred to in JOHN BULL. The hearing was adjourned, the Cullifords being remanded in custody, but Lovesay was admitted to bail.

JOHN BULL'S FINANCIAL LETTER-BOX.

(1) Letters containing inquiries must be addressed to the City Editor, JOHN BULL, 2, Copthall Buildings, E.C. The names and addresses of correspondents must be enclosed, not, of course, for publication, but in token of good faith. Anonymous communications will be disregarded.

(2) Correspondents should adopt either a nom-de-plume, or mention initials, under which the replies will appear in the paper. The stocks or subjects inquired about should also be numbered.

(3) Replies are made only in the ordinary way through the columns of this journal under the above heading, and not by letter.

(4) In no circumstances will the proprietors undertake the sale or purchase of stocks or shares.

(5) If inquirers wish it, for transacting business, the names and addresses of respectable firms of stockbrokers, members of the London Stock Exchange, will be supplied to them, in which case a stamped addressed envelope must be enclosed.

(6) A Postal Order for 1/- must accompany each Financial or Insurance Enquiry.

OUTSIDE BROKERS.—A. M. (Oban).—These are outside brokers, and you might as easily lose money as make some, and as you say yourself that you are a "greenhorn," I strongly advise you to have nothing to do with it. The price of Island Para rubber shares is 9d., rather nominal. PISCO.—I agree with you that in view of the promises of unlimited profits in their circulars, these outside brokers have no right to limit your profits on Erie to 3 points, although you had paid 3 points margin. But I suppose you do not want to go to law, and I can but advise you not to deal with such gentry. The documents are returned. GUTHRIE AND GUNTER: FAIR PLAY.—These are outside stockbrokers, and I do not think that any firm can always make profits in the way these people promise. I do not, moreover, think that the Trust which is to guarantee these profits is of any standing. I have repeatedly remarked upon this concern, and you will find in former issues of JOHN BULL special paragraphs. I advise you not to deal with these people. SCOTT reply to HARROVIAN and MONEY FOR NOTHING. THE EAGLE EXCHANGE, stock and share brokers, King's Court, Broadway, Westminster.—A. S.—I need hardly tell you that stockbrokers do not usually take offices at Westminster, but close to the Stock Exchange. These are only outside brokers, and I should strongly advise you not to go with them. "Guide to Success" I do not like the look of at all, and I have nothing to do with them. MINE.—If you care to speculate only about £100 you had better send it to Scholey's office, where it will be dealt with by Mr. T. L. (Wellington).—I should advise you to have nothing to do with these outside brokers. That would not be your game. This is not investment, but mere speculation on terms unfavourable to you.

PREFERENCE BONDS OR DEBENTURES.—T. J. W.—Yours is one that you bought for £98 worth of Peruvian Bonds from Cunliffe, Russell and Co., in Paris, and paid only £85. Having to go abroad, you asked them to give you a smaller commission for whom the amount was paid which they refused. I think you have made a mountain out of a molehill, and you should make a strong appeal to them, telling them that you will please to have the "finest principle" of the various prices you paid, and I will enquire into the matter for you.

THE STILE.—A. B. C.—I cannot see how this matter could be kept secret, and I think the best thing you can do is to act apart from him altogether.

ANGLO-BRAZILIAN MOTOR TRANSPORT COMPANY.—DELPHIN.—I have placed you in communication with W. H. F. by mentioning to him that you wish to communicate with him, and no doubt he will write to you.

MAIKOPS.—LOTUS.—It is a matter of opinion, and everything depends upon the way in which you regard the concern. You do not say at what price you bought the shares, but presumably you have a profit on them, and I would be advisable for you to reduce the same. Even if you did not get your profit you would do no harm, as, while the enterprise is undoubtedly a promising one, at anything like the present price the shares are more than fully valued.

INTERNATIONAL BANKERS' MAGAZINE.—A. L. L.—[illegible] I must confess that I have not hitherto been aware of [illegible] absence of any information as to its standing and [illegible] any business with it.

MIXED INVESTMENTS.—C. H. R.—Yours is a mixed lot of investments, [illegible] so, and 12 are beyond reproach, and [illegible] those holdings. Nos. [illegible] rather doubtful about No. 11, the question of which [illegible] No. 14 are even worse off, but I should not [illegible] stocks on the first opportunity.

NEW EXAS.—LONDON.—I doubt whether you could sell those shares now, [illegible] you wanted to, there being no quotation for the same.

LOW-PRICED MINES.—W. E. Diamond Proprietary Mines would be [illegible] for the other low-priced shares mentioned.

RUBBERS.—BREAM COVE.—The Rubber Company [illegible] but it may come [illegible] the market generally continues, and you will be well [illegible] Another interested paper, which was recently issued shows that the position of the company is anything but unsatisfactory, and there is no doubt.

CALCUTTA TRAM CARS.—G. C.—I am sorry I cannot [illegible] the Calcutta Tramways Company. Since the Indian Government [illegible] the public subscribed for [illegible] that, owing to the action of the Government, the Company [illegible] is no longer allowed to issue tickets except to members, and the reply which you have received is the same. [illegible] I am not help you in the matter. [illegible] you had [illegible] with the rest of [illegible] Rubber and Tobacco shares are now quoted [illegible] reduced.

LOTTERY TICKETS.—E. K.—The Provincial Lottery [illegible] quite respectably, under the control of [illegible] not tell you anything about the [illegible] respectable, but others [illegible] have been forwarded by post.

RUSSIAN MAIL CONTRACTORS' SYNDICATE.—[illegible] only victims of the American [illegible] the interest of this Syndicate, and I hope [illegible] communicating with me, when you might [illegible] fall into this trap. The documents are [illegible]

TIN MINES, ETC.—R. C. (Dundee).—(1) The Bolcoto Tin Mines is a [illegible] enterprise. I do not care for either Nos. 2 or 3, and you would be [illegible] existing securities at the same time. (2) [illegible]

TASMANIAN EXPLORATION.—M. (Dunoon).—I quite appreciate the position [illegible] rake, but if you wish to pursue the matter further you must be prepared to [illegible] spend money. Why not get into communication with your friend [illegible] upon the subject.

FIVE PER CENT. INVESTMENTS.—C. B.—(1) This matter will be attended to. (2) Grand Trunk Second Preference at 60, Mexican R. [illegible] Preference at 137, Rio Tramways 5-per-cent. Mortgage Bonds at 97.

NELSONS; UNION-CASTLES.—MIND-THE-STEP.—(1) It is rumoured that Nelsons have made an advantageous deal with Armours, but the rise in the shares has been very [illegible] (2) It is difficult to advise with regard to Union-Castles in view of the share [illegible] is best to buy only on reaction. If new capital is [illegible] there is no reason why it should weaken the security of [illegible]

INVESTING BANKS.—FOOTE.—Take a couple of any [illegible] your name.

BANK OF IRELAND.—INQUIRER.—There has been a heavy fall, but I consider the investment to have been a good one, and I cannot advise [illegible] other hand, you might take [illegible] your minding.

WATER SOFTENING.—YORKSHIREMAN.—Such a company has not [illegible] formed here, and your best plan to get into touch with the people would probably be to advertise in the daily press.

GAS—HOPE ON.—This Company has [illegible] I consider that there is a good time coming for the [illegible] after the deep-well borings have been carried out, so I do not advise you to throw away your shares at the present rubbish prices.

VARIOUS.—W. X. Y.—(1) Certainly, keep those [illegible] right eventually. (2) Instead of buying more of those [illegible] which you have, if you can. (3) These oil shares are more promising, and there is no need to sell in a hurry. (4) An obscure mining company, in whose shares there is little or no market.

TIN MINE IN GERMAN SOUTH WEST AFRICA.—M. S.—I do not think it would be of any use to offer such a tin mine at £50,000. Your friends want to make too much money.

INSURANCE SHARES.—F. K.—These insurance shares are quoted at 2½ to 3½, which includes the dividend on January 1st next.

BUILDING SOCIETY.—P. C. G.—I do not know much about the Building Society in question, but my remarks would apply to the same, and you should withdraw your money and put it into the P.O. Savings Bank. E. G. A. (Preston).—This is only what is to be expected in the case of such Building Societies, and I am afraid you have already [illegible] to leave yourselves in their hands. In future, put your money into the P.O. Savings Bank, or if it is a fair amount of £50 to £100, invest it in sound stocks and shares through a stockbroker.

ASSURANCE.—J. D.—I do not like either concern, which are both very [illegible] and I should advise you to withdraw, and transfer your assurances to offices of unlimited standing, such as the Sun Life, North British and Mercantile, Scottish Widows' Fund, Alliance, Etc.

A large number of replies are unavoidably held over.

INSURANCE REPLIES.

Insurance Enquiries should be addressed Insurance Editor, 93, Long Acre, W.C.

NATIONAL BENEFIT TRUST.—M. F. (Gateshead).—There is nothing in your letter to suggest that you could sustain a claim for the recovery of your premiums.

ROYAL LIVERPOOL FRIENDLY SOCIETY.—READER OF "JOHN BULL" (Liverpool).—We are afraid you can recover nothing. Your title to the policy seems to be defective. It is a hard case, and shows the necessity of not paying premiums until you are certain of your interest in the policy upon which you are paying.

INDUSTRIAL INDEMNITY CORPORATION.—CELT 2 (Pontypridd).—The answer is in the negative.

STAR OF HOPE INSURANCE COMPANY.—S. A. (Warrington).—We agree with much you say as to the complexity of the conditions, but, of course, those who wish to insure should read the printed matter carefully, and if they do not they run inevitable risk. We return your policy under cover.

ROYAL LONDON AUXILIARY INSURANCE SOCIETY.—HELP (Monument Street).—The case as you put it is one of considerable hardship and even unfairness, but we must point out that reference to arbitration is always a costly business, and your friend should have considered this before he consented to take out the policy. But the gravamen of your complaint seems to be that, the arbitrators being unable to agree, and the umpire being called in, your friend has received notice that the umpire's award is ready for him to take up, but he must first pay the cost of the arbitration, £7 7s. 6d. We assume that in this, as in other cases, the incidence of the cost of arbitration is settled beforehand. Anyway, we cannot see why your friend should be required to pay the whole of it, unless it is expressly provided by the terms of the agreement.

NORWICH UNION FIRE INSURANCE SOCIETY.—E. V. (Southend-on-Sea).—We have gone over very carefully the correspondence you have sent us, but it seems to us that in taking the course they have done, the Society is within the four corners of its Agreement with your husband. If that be so, you have, of course, no means of compelling it to accept your request to commute the payment for a lump sum. We return the correspondence and policy.

ROYAL LIVER FRIENDLY SOCIETY.—J. S.—If the facts are as you state them, the policy is illegal.

REHEART UNEMPLOYMENT AND GENERAL INSURANCE COMPANY.—H. S. L. (Gateshead).—We regret that we can give you no information respecting the whereabouts of the people who ran this Company.

PROVIDENT ASSOCIATION OF LONDON.—M. K. (Leeds).—We can understand your annoyance, but do not see that you have any ground for complaint against the Association. What you have to show is that they have not carried out their part of their contract with you. The trouble with you, as with so many others, is that you entered into this contract without first making yourself acquainted with its conditions. F. H. (St. John's Wood).—We have inquired into your complaint, and find that you are quite mistaken about the inspection of property by the Surveyor taking place on the 28th. As to the survey, it is the practice of the Company to issue such vouchers of applications made by certificate holders of 5 years' standing and upwards, as often as may be necessary, so that one certificate for only has to be paid, and if the valuation of several properties should become necessary, the cost of such valuations is borne by the Company.

PRESTON SHIELDS ASSURANCE SOCIETY.—J. W. T. (Preston).—If the agent was a party to the facts you name in your letter, we think you could recover.

OLD AGE PENSION TRUST.—E. T. B. (Liverpool).—Have nothing to do with it.

ROYAL LONDON MUTUAL INSURANCE SOCIETY.—J. W. M. (Gresford).—We cannot see that you have any cause for action against the Society.

LONDON AND MANCHESTER INDUSTRIAL ASSURANCE COMPANY.—A. P. (Harrow Hill).—You can do nothing but continue the payment of your premiums. You insured your father at the age of 8o, and some years afterwards you insured him for a larger sum, but he still lives. You must go on paying if you want to get anything at death. F. M. B. (East Ham).—The policies are illegal unless they were taken out to cover funeral expenses.

CITY LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANY.—E. M. (Leyton).—The answer is in the affirmative.

STATUS OF COMPANY.—J. B. (Partick).—We know nothing against the Company, which was established some 14 years ago, and does fire, marine, and other business. G. V. (Wyesdale).—We think not.

SCOTTISH LOCAL LIFE ASSURANCE SOCIETY.—D. T. (Dundee).—Without further particulars we cannot advise.

PIONEER LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANY.—W. C. (Glasgow).—Drop the insurance. It is thriftless.

PEARL LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANY.—LOUGHBOROUGH.—The policy is illegal, and if fraud could be proved you could recover. ANXIOUS (Bath).—We cannot advise without full facts. BAILIFF (Midsomer Norton).—The policy is illegal. To recover, you must prove fraud on the part of the agent. Your policy is returned. R. E. G. (Brooklyn).—The policies are illegal, and if the facts are as you state them, the premiums could be recovered.

LIVERPOOL VICTORIA LEGAL FRIENDLY SOCIETY.—J. A. S. (Nottingham).—There is probably no bonus.

ROYAL FRIENDLY SOCIETY.—A. A. (Vauxhall).—The policies seem to be illegal, but we do not advise proceedings at present.

UNION ASSURANCE SOCIETY.—F. K. S. (Bournemouth).—As you will not state your case, we can not help you.

BRITANNIC ASSURANCE COMPANY.—BEATA (Southend-on-Sea).—The policies are illegal, but they would probably be paid on maturity.

BRITISH WORKMEN'S FRIENDLY SOCIETY.—J. O. B. (Bristol).—Consult a local solicitor. The premiums are probably recoverable.

PRUDENTIAL ASSURANCE COMPANY.—A. M. (Henny).—If the agent told you that the policy would be for your benefit when you commenced paying, you could recover what you have paid, proving that your brother never signed. G. F. N. (Neuilly).—Press for a receipt from the head office. WIDOW (Mile End Road).—If you signed the proposal forms for your policies they are in order, and you may continue to pay. D. P. (Lee).—The Company will probably pay the policy. H. K. (Bridlington).—We are afraid you are another victim of the Prudential, and have no remedy. M. H. (Cheetham).—Consult a local solicitor and sue for the return of premiums on the ground of misrepresentation. A. L. (York).—If the policies were taken out for funeral expenses, we cannot advise proceedings. J. E. (Poplar).—We are afraid you have no legal claim. J. A. J. (St. Annes-on-Sea).—Consult a local solicitor. If you can prove that your mother-in-law did not sign, the Company must return the premiums. J. E. (Preston).—Without seeing the policies and a full statement of the facts, we cannot advise. S. B. (Huddersfield).—If what you say is correct, the policies were illegally lapsed and the husband should sue the Company. Consult a good local solicitor. ANXIOUS (Strathaven).—As you have paid so much, continue to pay. The policy will probably be void. J. R. (Cornwall).—You should commence an action and get discovery therein. You will then be able to tell who signed the proposal forms. If you signed, the agent telling you that you could properly do so, your rights are not affected. T. MCKAY (Bally Clare). Consult your solicitor. ANXIOUS.—We fear that if the proposal forms were properly signed you have no remedy. You are among the many victims of the Company. C. D. (Stratford).—Your own policies seem to be illegal, but we cannot advise as to the others without full facts. If the proposal forms were not signed by the assured, the premiums could be recovered. We return policies.

It is requested that all letters sent us relating to the validity of policies held in the Prudential be marked on the envelope "Prudential." Owing to the thousands of enquiries which have been received, some little delay in dealing with them is unavoidable, but every endeavour is being made to expedite matters.

IMAGINARY INTERVIEW.

By WALTER MOORE.

[In this column our contributor, Mr. Walter Moore, has an imaginary interview with some celebrity of the day.]

MR. PHILIP SNOWDEN, M.P.

Mr. Snowden looks the political iconoclast he is. The slight physical infirmity from which he suffers serves to accentuate the characteristics of his appearance.

So it may be imagined that I was prepared for a rough passage as I made my way towards him, as he stood, brooding apart, in a quiet corner of the House of Commons lobby.

"Well, Mr. Snowden," I began, "does the realisation of your political ideals appear to you to be any the nearer after all these years of Liberal administration?"

"On the contrary," replied the Member for Blackburn, "the vision is receding. We have merely exchanged Conservative indifference for Liberal incompetence. Our last case is worse than the first. We were content to endure the callous apathy of the Tory, because it provided a weapon, ready forged, to our hand. But all this blundering, Lloyd-Georgian social legislation impedes our propaganda."

"What precisely is your propaganda, may I ask?" said I.

"'Red ruin, and the breaking up of laws,'" replied Mr. Snowden. "Only by means of an appalling social upheaval will the masses of the people come into their own. As I declared in the House of Commons a few nights ago, the great mass of the working people of this country would be better off without the protection of the law."

"But that would mean anarchy!" I cried.

"Agreed," retorted Mr. Snowden. "Anarchy would provide the more robust of the working classes with their opportunity."

"I know. You said that in the House. But you were not consistent with it. You proceeded to advocate the nationalisation of railways."

"Consistency is nothing to do with me," replied Mr. Snowden. "All I know is this—that the poor are getting poorer every day, and that, on the other hand, the rich are getting enormously richer, shamefully richer, *dangerously* richer."

Mr. Snowden placed ominous emphasis on the word I have italicised.

"And when I say dangerously," he pursued, "I mean that the danger is to themselves. Not much longer will the starving poor be content to drag on a wretched existence, while luxury and wealth are flaunted before their hungry eyes."

"But surely," I objected, "when all the crushed and groaning people are getting their ninepence for fourpence, and setting their teeth into the luscious fruits which Mr. Lloyd George is dangling before their eyes like a bunch of carrots before the muzzle of a donkey, social dissatisfaction and unrest will have become a thing of the past."

"My friend," retorted Mr. Snowden, "the only part of Mr. Lloyd George's 'rare and refreshing fruit' that will reach the parched lips of the toiling masses will be—the pip!"

And I left it at that.

"BRAININE."
The only Cure for "Brain Fag," "Nerves," and "Worry." See advt. page 925.

Money-Making

FOR

'JOHN BULL' READERS.

EVERY man and woman who reads this journal is naturally anxious to make money and become independent in life. Some people find the task quite easy, whilst others have met with many disappointments by their failure to grasp the opportunity at the right moment. To the latter our system would especially appeal, embracing as it does the vital principles of successful money-making; It places the man of small means on an equality with the Capitalist, so that everyone has an equal chance in the race for wealth; It brings unlimited profit in return for a small outlay without further liability, and has proved the means of substantial pecuniary gain to the thousands of grateful clients who have shared in the colossal sum of

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The National Share Exchange, 61. Winchester Street, London, E.C.

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J.B. 23-12-11

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Address in Full _____

Date _____ Please write Distinctly.

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ANTICIPATED EPITAPHS.

By W. M.

Thys
Sepulchre
Of
Syrian marble
Containes ye beans
Of
Ye Ryght Honourable Herbert Louis Samuel,
P.C., M.A., M.P.
Who
Filled ye poficion
Of
POSTMASTER-GENERAL
Durynge ye whych period
There was much difsatisfaction and unreft
Amongft hys subordynates.
Born
Anno Domini 1870,
Hys younge idea was fyrft taught to shoote
Atte Univerfitie College Schoole,
And later atte
Balliol College, Oxford
Where,
Anno Domini 1893,
Hee wonne
Fyrft Clafs Honours;
Ye whych succefs soe puffed hym uppe
Thatte twoo yeares later
Hee contefted ye South Oxfordfhire Divifion.
Butte
It woulde notte have hym atte any pryce,
Neither then nor in
Anno Domini 1900,
When hee tryed agayn.
Therefore
Itt was notte until
Anno Domini 1902
Thatte hee succeeded in enterynge Parliamente
As Liberal Member for ye Cleveland Divifion of Yorkfhire.
Havynge gott there,
Hee soone pufhed hymfelf into ye poficion of
Under-Secretarie to ye Home Departement,
In ye whych capacitie
Hee pilotted
YE CHILDREN'S CHARTER
Through ye Houfe of Commons—
A meafure whythe,
However well-intencioned,
Has,
In manie directions,
Done more harm thanne goode.
However,
Itt broughte hym a bitte of fame,
For
Itt wonne hym a Privie Councillorfhippe,
Ye Chancerie of ye Duchie,
And
A seat in ye Cabinette.
Butte,
As £2,500 a yeare is better than £2,000,
Hee prefentlie applied for
Ye Poftmafter-General's jobbe,
And gotte itt.

Ye lafte *poste* havynge sounded,
Ye spirit of ye deceafed efcaped from itt's *envelope*.
Hys afhes were *collechted* and *delyvered to* hys tombe, butte
Hys soul left no *addrefs*.
Letters pray!

THE HIGHEST STANDARD OF QUALITY.

"Black & White" Whisky

Jas. Buchanan & Co., Ltd., Glasgow & London.

THE GREAT REMEDY FOR COUGHS & COLDS

Ormbridge's LUNG TONIC

Speakers, Singers and those who suffer from Throat Weakness find it SAFE AND EFFECTIVE.
Sold everywhere at 1/1½, 2/9, 4/6 & 11/-

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Best Vulcanite Mouthpiece scientifically constructed to minimise the pressure upon the teeth.

This unique design, made in all the favourite patterns, ensures a thoroughly cool and comfortable smoke.

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Of all Tobacconists and Stores.

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Instant Relief in Asthma, Bronchitis, Croup, and Whooping Cough by the use of Potter's Asthma Cure, in 1/- Tins. Sold everywhere. For FREE SAMPLE send post card to POTTER & CLARKE, LTD., Artillery Lane, London, E. (Mention this Magazine.

Instant Relief.

Walson's No-10 whisky

IN EXTREMIS.

[*"You can* ONLY *say 'damn' when you are very cross with your husband."—Mrs. Kendal at the Shakespeare Schools.*]

When a monkey pulls your inquisitive nose,
Or a navvy jumps on your sensitive toes;
When a servant lets your best porcelain smash,
Don't worry, but smile and just say "O Dash!"

When a mad bull tosses you over the trees,
When you slip on a slide and hurt your—knees;
When you walk at a wall and your head spins round,
Don't fret and fume: merely say, "Confound!"

When a fall of soot on your Axminster flops,
Or a whirling brick through the plate-glass drops,
When a burglar bursts your safe with a bang,
Don't swear. Say sweetly, "O blow!" and "O hang!"

But when your husband is ten minutes late,
When he says that your milliner's bill must wait;
When he dries his hands on the towel-sham,
Then, then is the time to say "O Damn!"

J. W. M.

POINTED PARAGRAPHS.

MEM. FOR THE BISHOP OF LONDON.

[*The marriage has taken place of the Rev. William Marshall, eighty years old, Vicar of Idle, near Bradford, the bride being Miss Jane Moore.*]

Pray, bishop, Marshall one fact Moore,
When talking till we're dizzy;
This priest of Idle idles not—
Why not, like him, get busy?

RICARDO.

THE GOLDEN DUSTMAN.

[*In the December number of the "Library Assistant" there are two announcements set side by side. One is to the effect that the Shoreditch Borough Council have decided to raise the wages of their dustmen to 26s. and 27s. The other states that the Merthyr Tydvil Corporation are seeking a librarian at 25s. a week.*]

Oh! climb no more Parnassus' slopes,
Nor pore o'er dusty tomes;
But climb up to a cart and pour
The dust of littered homes.

CHRISTMAS PRODUCTIONS.

Tom Smith's crackers are always sure of a hearty welcome. This year the firm has wisely retained all the old favourites with which its name is associated, and added many new and artistic novelties. The get-up of the crackers is a delight to the eye, and the firm's productions are quite unbeatable by any other manufacturers. Without Tom Smith's crackers Christmas would certainly not be Christmas at all!

Charles Letts and Co. have sent us a collection of their diaries. All tastes and ages are carefully catered for, from little volumes for the use of schoolboys and schoolgirls—many of the large public and other schools have their own designs—to the business man's bulky desk diary—intermediate productions being supplied for gardeners, boy scouts, and, indeed, to meet almost every conceivable need. The popular self-opening tablet is retained, as is the £1,000 insurance coupon.

Messrs. John Walker and Co. also sent us specimens of their diaries—all quite up-to-date, and thoroughly well-thought-out to meet the requirements of all classes. Compactness has obviously been a special study of the firm.

Cusack's College, Finsbury Square, has materially increased its reputation by gaining 15 gold, silver, and bronze medals, and four money prizes at the 1911 commercial examinations. This constitutes a record.

Are your Children trying for our "Biscuit" Prizes?

A Musical Xmas

Why not enjoy a Musical Christmas by purchasing the very latest and best of all Musical Publications?

A New Waltz

By

Archibald Joyce.

Founder and Leader of the English School of Dance Music, and composer of

"Songe d'Automne," "Dreaming," "Vision of Salome," "A Thousand Sweet Memories." Kisses," "Remembrance," etc.,

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OF

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OTHER CONTENTS OF PART 7.

Song - - - Dear Little Heart
From the Musical Comedy "Sergeant Brue"
LIZA LEHMANN

Ballad - - - - I Remember
FRANK LAMBERT

Serenade Two-Step Beneath the Stars
BERTRAM LESTRANGE

Song - - - Trust and Believe
EDITH FORTESCUE

N.B.—Six parts of the "New Portfolio of Copyright Songs and Music" have already been published, each containing five copyright songs and musical pieces, the published value of which is 7/6.

SPURIOUS SYMPOSIUMS.

SUPPOSITITIOUS REPLIES OF PROMINENT PEOPLE.

How Will You Spend Christmas?

Not altogether satisfied with the replies to the above question printed in *John and Mary*, we have repeated the inquiry to certain other celebrities, whose answers we give below :—

Mr. Lloyd George sends us the following outburst :—

I shall devote the Christmas holidays to cultivating further rare and refreshing fruit, which I hope to convey to the parched lips of the multitude next year.

I shall also be kept busy dodging my own domestics, who, I notice, are already beginning to stamp about the house in a manner very different from that designed in my Insurance Bill.

Is it not strange how some people resent and reject the blessings and benefits which I am endeavouring to bestow upon them? Judging from the ominous gleam in cook's eye, I fear that the turkey will not be a success this year.

Mr. Winston Churchill is pleasantly communicative. Says he :—

As I am now the head of the King's Navy, I am anxious to spend Christmas in such a way as will appeal to the patriotic fervour of the people.

On Christmas Eve I and a few friends will give a private amateur dramatic performance of Gilbert and Sullivan's immortal comic opera, *H.M.S. Pinafore*.

I have recently been rehearsing the part of Admiral Sir J. Porter, and have found it of very great assistance to me in my new *rôle*.

On Christmas Day we shall, of course, sit down to the usual feast; but I have issued orders that the pudding shall be referred to as "plum duff," out of compliment to the Service.

Mr. Reginald McKenna is brief and unusually facetious, as will appear :—

In reply to your inquiry, I beg to remind you that I am now Home Secretary, and how better could a Home Secretary spend his Christmas than at home? But, padding all jokes on one side, I think it is like your sauce to ask me such a question.

Wishing you all the usual complaints of the season,

Mr. Augustine Birrell also indulges in the brevity of wit. He writes :—

It is my intention at Christmas to subject myself entirely to "home rule."

Mr. Asquith strikes, and writes, a somewhat serious note :—

I intend to devote Christmas to composing my valedictory speech in preparation for my approaching retirement from the House of Commons to the calm and restful backwater of the House of Peers.

Mr. Herbert Samuel does not appear to look forward to Christmas with very much pleasure :—

To ask the Postmaster-General how he intends to spend Christmas is a joke so feeble as to be unworthy of John Bull. For heaven's sake, post early!

Mr. George Cadbury gives us some interesting news :—

It is my intention to spend Christmas in my laboratory at Bournville, where, with the assistance of the editor of the *Daily News*, I hope to discover a new cocoa. I have already fixed on a striking name for it: "Hercules Cocoa Essence, the Radical's Brawn Builder."

I shall also give up a little time to composing arresting advertisements for the beverage, such as "Drink Hercules Cocoa, and Be a Better Radical!"

TELEPHONE EMPLOYEES.

AN UNJUST IMPOSITION.

We note that the Postmaster-General has issued an order that all officers, including the clerical and female operating staffs, of the National Telephone Company must, on transfer, furnish a birth certificate. The circular letter points out that this certificate can be obtained for 3s. 7d. Well, it is certainly one way of raising the revenue, but, in our opinion, it is a most contemptible one. The staff of the National, when taking service with the company, had to give satisfaction as to age, and if the General Post Office are not prepared to waive further evidence, the least they might do is to check the ages given by the books at Somerset House free of charge; 3s. 7d. out of the wages of a poor operator is a considerable sum.

BILLS THAT OUGHT TO BE PASSED.

THE CHRISTMAS BILL.

[To provide for the closer observance of the Christmas spirit on the part of His Majesty's lieges, and to encourage a more active manifestation of the principles of Peace and Goodwill in civil life during the months of December and January in each year, if at no other season.]

Be it enacted by the King's most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows :—

1.—This Act shall come into operation on the First day of December in each year, and shall remain in force until the Thirty-first day of January next following. Furthermore, where its terms may be applied, it shall remain in force as a permissive measure during the remaining ten months of each year.

2.—Any person in any public place within the meaning of this Act wearing a long face, lugubrious look, or a melancholy visage, during the months of December and January as set forth in Clause 1, shall be liable to summary arrest, and upon being charged before a magistrate and convicted, may be sentenced to seven days' imprisonment in a cell lined with mirrors.

3.—Any person nursing a grudge against any other person, and who shall refuse to clasp the hand of friendship when held out, shall be liable to receive a visit from the nearest Police Court Missionary, and if, notwithstanding the said Missionary's remonstrances, the said person still persists in his or her rejection of friendly overtures, his or her name shall be included forthwith in the Black List of Curmudgeons, the same to be exhibited in a public place for not less than seven days.

4.—To preserve the happiness of the people during the Christmas season, no application or demand for rates or taxes shall be made during the months of December and January.

5.—To further ensure the content of the populace, no application or demand for rent, nor any bill or other request for payment for goods or value received, shall be valid if made during the months of December and January.

6.—No husband shall make his wife a Christmas present of any article calculated to be more useful to himself than to her—such as a box of cigars, shaving tackle, or a silk hat; and no wife shall make her husband a Christmas present of any article calculated to be of more use to herself than to him—such as a new dress, a toque, or a vanity bag—except by mutual agreement; otherwise the aggrieved party shall be legally entitled to offer the said unsuitable present for sale by public auction, and reserve the proceeds for his or her own use without let or hindrance.

7.—Any employer of labour, manual or clerical, who shall discharge an employé at any time during the month of December, except on account of dishonesty on the part of the said employé (and not necessarily even then), shall be liable to be summoned before a magistrate and sentenced, on conviction, to a fine not exceeding £10 and costs, the said fine to be handed to the employé as compensation for his dismissal during the Christmas season.

CHRISTMAS IN THE HOSPITALS.

A PLEA FOR PEACE ON EARTH.

A "sister" in one of the largest London hospitals sends us the following appeal to the authorities :—

I see annually in many of the daily papers an account of the Christmas "festivities" in one of the London hospitals. A description is given of a procession through all the wards (at 2.0 a.m.) of the "sweet-faced sisters and nurses"—some playing violins, some singing carols, and all carrying lighted lamps in their hands.

This, to the lay mind, sounds most picturesque—but may I, who have worked for many years in one of the largest hospitals, plead this year that the patients may be considered. In any ward of any hospital surely there is at least *one* patient (my experience tells me the greater number) whose rest should be jealously guarded. I see in my mind a strong man, worn out with delirious sleeplessness of pneumonia. Under the influence of a necessary opiate, he has just sunk into a sleep which may mean life or death to him. Can the singing of carols and the playing of violins (however sweet the faces of the performers may be) be sufficiently important to disturb that rest?

MORE MONEY FOR THE AMBITIOUS.

GREATER EARNING POWER FOR ALL WHO ACT ON ADVICE IN THIS REMARKABLE BOOK.

SPECIAL XMAS OFFER TO READERS OF "JOHN BULL."

The trained human brain is the most prolific money-mint in the world.

Go into the counting house of some big commercial firm. You see that clerk busily writing at his desk! He is working very hard. Yet at the outside his salary is not more than 35s. a week. Why? Simply because his brain has not been trained to make more.

In another room there sits the manager of the department. He is working hard, too—but, so far as actual effort is concerned, no harder than the clerk. But his work is of a finer, higher quality. He has trained his brain to make more money. Consequently, it is minting him 500 golden sovereigns a year.

Inside a door marked STRICTLY PRIVATE there sits the Chairman of the Directors. Of actual "slogging" work he does less, perhaps, than anyone in the firm. His duties at the office are accomplished in a couple of hours. After lunch he has to rush off to attend meetings, or to go down to "the House"—for he is a Member of Parliament and a public man. But upon that couple of hours' work hinges the whole great business. His brain has been trained to do that work, to do it swiftly and to do it well. Consequently, the busy Mint of his Mind is creating for him £10,000 a year.

Scientific Mind Training. Not Natural Brilliance, The Surest Passport to Success.

Now mark this!

The chief difference between these three men lies not in the original quality of their mental cortex, but in the training their brains have undergone.

Every soldier in Napoleon's army carried a Marshal's baton in his knapsack. So every soldier in the world's industrial, commercial, financial and professional Armies carries in his brain the sleeping qualities of a Carnegie, a Lipton, a Rothschild, or an Asquith. These qualities in most cases are undeveloped. But they can be developed with proper training. You can greatly develop them in your own case by following out the system described in a book that is now being distributed free to readers of JOHN BULL who are ambitious to get on in the world.

"But are not some men and women endowed by Nature with more brilliant brains than others?"

Certainly they are. But as a rule their very brilliance causes them to think that "training" is not required, and consequently they fail to win Success. Everyone knows of brilliant men who fail and of less brilliant men who succeed. Remember this—Training is far more important than Brilliance as a factor of success. The well-trained brain wins through where the brilliant but untrained (and therefore unstable) brain gives in.

Special Christmas Mind-Training. Income-Increasing Offer.

Particulars of this offer will be sent, together with a copy of a remarkable book just published, free to every reader who uses the coupon printed below.

This book tells all about the Pelman system of improving the money-minting power of your mind. Study this system and enable yourself to double (and much more than double in many cases) the earning ability of your brain.

The income dividing line of your body runs somewhere about the chin. It is a fine line that divides the income-values of your physical system into two very unequal parts.

The value of a man from his chin downwards is, on an average, about 25. per day.

But his value from his chin upwards may be anything—£1 a day, £5 a day, £50 a day—it depends on how he uses his brain.

Thus, if your brain earns at present £2 a week, this book tells you of a system of training which enables you to increase your income to £4 a week starting as early as the New Year.

If it earns £5 a week now the system explained in this book will raise its money-minting value to £10 a week, and so on.

Amongst the many valuable mental qualities this system of training develops are the following:—

1. The power of originating valuable ideas and improvements.
2. The power of getting the most work out of others.
3. The power of doubling your own output without effort.
4. The power of convincing others with your arguments.
5. The power of impressing your personality upon your surroundings.
6. The power of dominating others.
7. The power of organising and directing large and complex affairs.
8. The power of salesmanship.
9. The power of management.
10. The power of quick and accurate thinking.
11. The power of a reliable, never-forgetting memory.
12. This system teaches you to talk well (in business and in society)—to speak fluently to large audiences—to remember facts, faces, appointments, names, dates of every kind—to learn foreign languages in one-third to one-quarter the usual time—to focus your mind on the important points of any proposition—to assimilate valuable knowledge and reject useless information—to act energetically and at the right time—to seize opportunities the moment they open—in short, to "get on," make money and win success.

Write for this Gift Guide Book To-day and Make Your Mind Mint More Money.

Here is the coupon which entitles you to a copy free of cost. Fill it up and post to-day.

By return of post a copy of this book will reach you and tell you of a method whereby you can Make Your Mind Mint More Money and improve your position in life, at a cost considerably less than the extra amount you may earn in one week after studying the system.

SEND THIS COUPON, OR COPY IT UPON A POSTCARD.

To the Secretary,
The Pelman School of Mind-Training,
15, Wenham House, Bloomsbury Street,
London, W.C.

Please send a copy of your book describing the Winter Evening Course of Mind and Business Training mentioned in the article entitled "More Money for the Ambitious," together with particulars of your special Christmas offer to readers of JOHN BULL.

Name .....

Address .....

....

JOHN BULL'S LETTER BAG.

[The EDITOR replies to, and has a chat with, some of his numerous correspondents.]

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.—Will readers, when forwarding cuttings from newspapers, take care that in each case a sufficient portion is sent to identify the name of the paper and the date of issue?

CORRESPONDENTS, when referring to previous communications which they may have addressed to us, should always mention the nature of the matter therein referred to. Owing to the great increase in the number of ENQUIRIES *received consequent upon the abnormal growth in our circulation, it is no longer possible to answer them all in "Letter Bag,"* AND ONLY THOSE OF GENERAL INTEREST *will be noticed. The Editor will, of course, still be grateful for information, "biscuit" material, newspaper cuttings, etc.*

AUTHORS and ARTISTS *submitting MSS. and drawings for consideration must write name and address upon the back of their work. The Editor cannot accept any responsibility for the safe custody of MSS., etc., so forwarded, but will endeavour to return unaccepted work* WHEN STAMPED, ADDRESSED ENVELOPES ARE ATTACHED TO THE MANUSCRIPT. ALL MATTER SUBMITTED MUST BE ORIGINAL UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED. *The most suitable lengths for articles and stories are about 750 words (one column), or 1,500 words (a page).*

The EDITOR *cannot express any opinion upon the value of postage stamps, old china, pictures, coins, books, etc.*

CORRESPONDENTS ARE REQUESTED NOT TO SEND ORIGINAL CERTIFICATES, TESTIMONIALS, ETC., *as, though every effort is made for their safe custody, they are liable to be mislaid. Copies only of such documents should be forwarded in the first instance.*

"POOR OLD SOLDIER" (London).—What you say is perfectly correct; it does one's heart good to see the *Lord Mayor's Show!*

G. R. (Fulham), S. F. (Ipswich), R. M. F. (Penzance), AND OTHERS.—"*The Bishop and the Babu*" appeared in *Mrs. Bull*. Apply to the publishers.

H. T. (St. John's Park) sent a shilling to an *advertiser named Shepherd*, of Rupert Street, Reading, for 100 bulbs; but the bulbs have gone astray. Perhaps they have "spurted."

"NOR'-WESTER" (Alberta, Canada). Thanks for lecture on *Canada*. "Edmonton and the surrounding country," you state, "would gladly welcome with open arms an unlimited number of decent old country girls." Do you mean *young* country girls? Rather cold out there, by the bye, isn't it?

MRS. W. C. D. (East Dulwich) found a cheque for £30, took it to the *lost property office*; was told she would be informed on its being claimed by owner; was so informed; called upon owner, and was rewarded with 2s. But the cheque was probably crossed, and had doubtless been stopped. Wherefore the owner might have thought he was giving money for nothing.

W. G. (Manchester).—They are of course entitled to the satisfaction of their judgment. But why *do* people sign *Hire Purchase Agreements* without reading them? Wait for *The Lay Lawyer*.

P. E. (Bow, E.).—We note that "*the G.E.R. sailors, porters* get 3d. a week rise for their loyalty"; also that "the directors get £2,000 a year for doing nothing." Wish we were a director in that case.

G. W. (Brixton).—We are afraid *Mr. Boulter* brings these things upon himself by his aggressive offensiveness.

W. L. W. (Cork).—It is evident from the Jeremiad of *Dr. Inge, the new Dean of St. Paul's*, that he sees life from the coal-cellar instead of through the sitting-room window. It is likewise evident that he has acidity of the stomach; also of the tongue. But while he is criticised he is being talked about, and as Dr. Johnson said, better be damned than forgotten.

"NE TEMERE" (Belfast) from the citizen's point of view believes the publication of *the Papal "Ne Temere"* decree as to mixed marriages to be an effort to substitute the law of Rome for the law of Home. Well put.

J. D. R. (Paddington) sent 2s. to a football accountant in Switzerland and won £1 2s., but is still waiting for the cash. He has the satisfaction of knowing that money goes farther in Switzerland than in England.

"FAIRPLAY" (Cheltenham). The auction incident you mention was evidently "a fair (?) *knockout*."

R. L. (Aberdeen).—The Act is the Act, you know. "It is hard for thee to kick against the pricks."

L. S. (Portland Place, W.).—The law of the East reads strangely in the light of the West, but we agree with you that Dahmmaloka "goes too far," in talking in that way to the orientals of Rangoon.

"AFRICANDER" (Johannesburg).—The letter in the *Northern Post* is clearly not the genuine production of a Boer. It is obviously written by an Englishman, who is crediting the Africander with his own bitter racialism.

D. D. (Limerick) states that he put 5s. on Long Set for the Cambridgeshire with *N. Fisher, of Liverpool*, who had circularised him, but he has not got his money yet. What has N. Fisher got to say about it?

"EX-SOLDIER" (Aberdeen) writes:—"I have yet to learn that England has any political dominion over Scotland." So have we. The trouble is all the other way about.

F. W. (Market Rasen) tells us that on October 28th last he sent 15s. 3d. to *Norman and Co., Church Street, Birmingham*, for some goods, "but can neither get invoice, goods, or money returned." We are tired of receiving complaints about this firm.

WILL the reader who sent us stamps for copies of "*a handy pamphlet*" to be forwarded to persons named, kindly supply further particulars of what is desired?

E. S. G. (Twickenham) tells us that *Her Majesty* took a certain anti-seasick preparation on her voyage out to India, and is loud in its praises. We seem, however, to have heard that, owing to the extent to which she suffered from sea sickness, the Royal party will return overland from Brindisi.

A. B. (Tooting Bec Common).—We are surprised that the *Evening Standard* should refer to the *Olympic's* "*cross-Transatlantic sailings*," but it was evidently an "erroneous-mistake" on the part of the reporter.

J. S. (Waley) sends us a cutting from a local paper reporting a N.S.P.C.C. whist drive held at Clacton-on-Sea, and stating that "During the interval refreshments were served, and at the close these were disposed of by Dutch auction." Sounds worse than Chinese pork!

H. L. L. (W. C.).—If the Church of England Men's Society is as good a thing as you make out—and we don't question it—more power to its elbow! —By the way, please don't call the *Political Nonconformists* out "frowsy." They might not like it.

"BOOTBLACK" (Tetbury).—*Whitaker's Almanack* publishes a list of the *principal charitable institutions*.

A. W. W. (Cambs.) asks us to advise him how to start "*a commission agency so as to keep within the law*." This is one of the last things we would care to do. Perhaps later on *The Lay Lawyer* will advise.

W. C. P. (Sale).—We do not like the *Insurance Act*, but we like even less the idea of large firms forming approved friendly societies under the Act and coercing the employees to join them. It is a movement that must be very closely watched.

E. V. (Leytonstone).—Jane Ann is so upset on account of the *Insurance Act* that all she can do is to stamp.

G. W. (Ramsgate).—We note what you say about the *bottle that cannot be refilled*. But what we should like to see is the *bottle that cannot be emptied*.

M. R. (Clarendon Gardens, W.).—You are quite right. We have no "faith in the jugglery which diplomats in France, England, and Germany are pleased to perform in their own interests and for the bemusing of the more simple of their countrymen." That is why we have published our recent articles on Germany.

J. N. A. (Canning Town) sends us a letter from *Football Chat*, Basle, in which excuses are made for not paying prize-money won in competitions. They say, "We want you to be patient." We don't doubt it.

F. S. (Bury, Lancs.) has perpetrated the following verse:—

O Woman! In your proper sphere
You are, indeed, without a peer.
When pain to Asquith you avow,
A Ministerial menace thou!

J. T. D. (Waterford).—Since we published instructions for obtaining tickets in the *Calcutta Sweeps* the rules of the Calcutta Turf Club have been altered. The only way tickets may be obtained now is by being a member or knowing a member.

"KONA-VISTA" (Belfast).—The *present century* commenced on January 1st 1901. Those who do not agree with us may do the other thing.

"MOTHER O' BOYS."—We have had pleasure in forwarding to Mr. and Mrs. Adam the 1s. 6d. sent by you, though, as we announced some time ago, the fund is closed.

R. H. C. (Glasgow).—It is in the nature of Royal Commissions to be slow, and the *Divorce Commission* is no exception.

"A READER," who is an instructor at a London skating rink, receiving no salary but a commission on lessons, complains that he is fined one shilling every time he is absent from the floor whilst the music is playing. If we were him, we are afraid we should owe the management a bit at the end of the week.

J. T. (Weaste).—Having found out before parting with your money that the turf tipster is *a "wrong 'un,"* surely you know what to do?

"A YOUNG NONCONFORMIST" (Middlesbrough) is sick of the hypocritical ranting of nonconformity and tired of the "*cackling gasbags*" who sit in the House of Commons calling each other names and wasting the nation's time and money. Them's *our* sentiments.

"LANERICK LAD" (Coatbridge).—We are not *aural specialists*. The thing-ma-bob you mention may do all that you say. But on the other hand it may not.

W. P. W. (Peckham). We agree that, as men, vast numbers of clerks are inadequately paid, but, on the other hand, many are not worth even the wretched screws they receive. To a great extent it is these last who keep the wages low.

C. H. T. (Perth, W. Australia). After rejoicing at the *power of the Labour Party in Australia*, tells us that a great many young girl immigrants go to perdition in the colony. Cannot some of that boasted power be used to mitigate the evil? Or is it only concerned with the more important question of wages?

C. C. (Ryde) wants to know what was the "*state of the parties*" in the House after the last General Election. Very excited, so far as we could see.

P. O. L. (Southampton).—No bookmaker has the right to threaten to get you discharged from your employment. We don't think you will bet with him again. By the way, why bet at all if you cannot afford to lose?

D.T. (Aberdare) has a lady friend who enjoys reading JOHN BULL but is *afraid to do so on Sundays*. How glad she must be there is only one Sunday in the week.

"NEGATIVE" (Dumbarton) wants some negative arguments to use in a debate on the *Taxation of Bachelors*. He should take all the affirmative arguments and reverse them.

"MDLLE." (Cherbourg).—You wish to know the difference between a sock and a stocking. A darned lot of difference.

E. B. (Oswestry).—We cannot tell you how much money is lost to the public every year through the blunders of the telegraph staff. In your case the culprit has been "suitably dealt with." Poor beggar.

"SHAKE 'EM UP" (Lincoln).—Very much obliged for the information, but you have omitted the formality of sending your name and address.

S. C. B. (Wolverhampton). Thanks. The British Empire is not bursting with curiosity concerning the inner working of any Y.M.C.A.

[*We regret we are obliged to hold over a large number of replies.*]

XMAS GIFTS AT NEXT TO FACTORY PRICES!

Send a postcard to-day for H. Samuel's Big **Free Book of 3,000 Xmas Bargains.** The charming Necklet and Pendant shown is typical of the splendid variety of Gifts of value that last a lifetime described in this wonderful guide to Xmas money-saving.

Write Now!

H. SAMUEL, 189, Market Street, MANCHESTER.

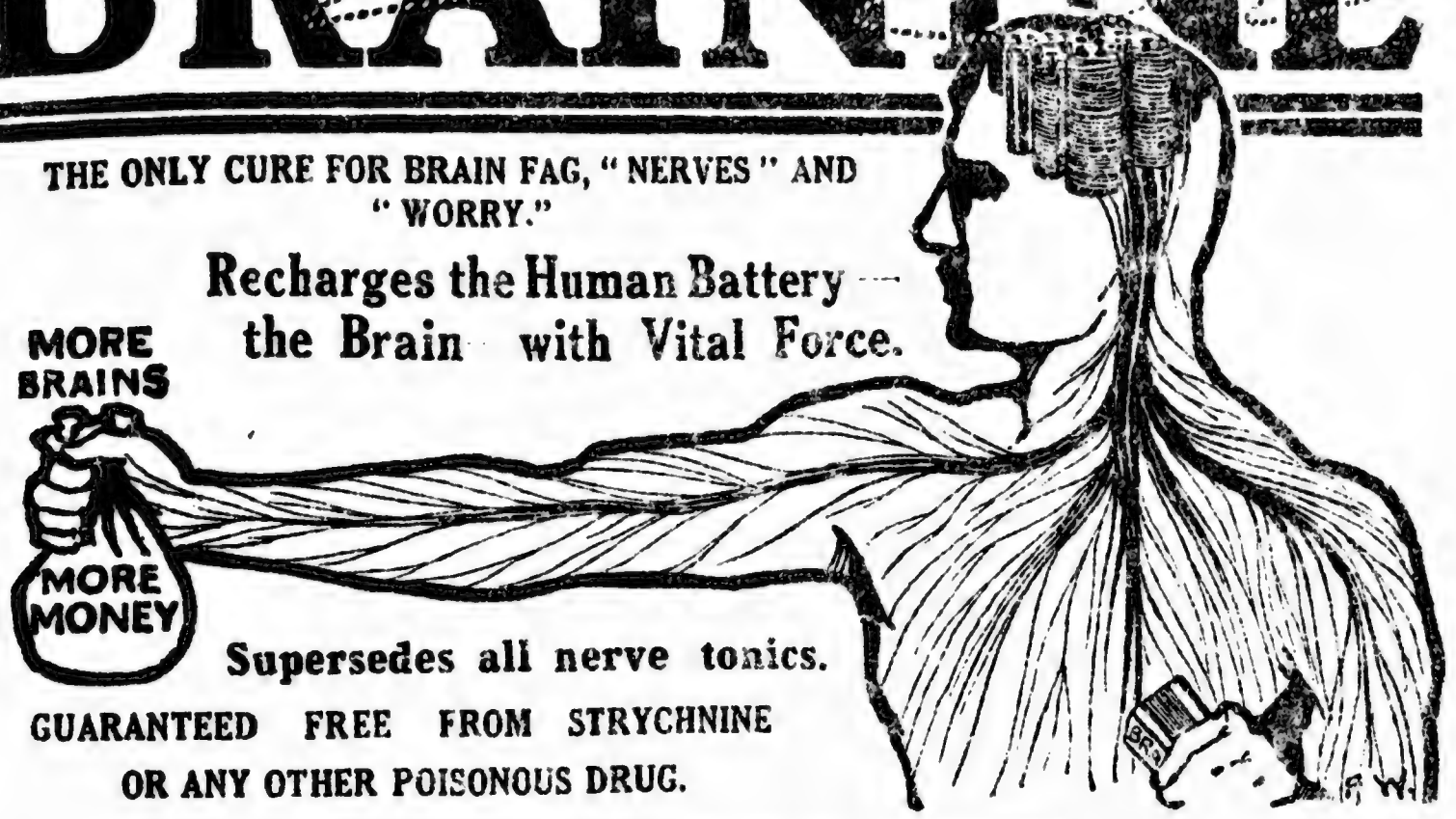
Gold Necklet & Pendant, exquisitely set with fine Aquamarines and Pearls. Exceptional value.

An Ideal Christmas "Box."

BRAININE

THE ONLY CURE FOR BRAIN FAG, "NERVES" AND "WORRY."

Recharges the Human Battery — the Brain with Vital Force.



Supersedes all nerve tonics.

GUARANTEED FREE FROM STRYCHNINE OR ANY OTHER POISONOUS DRUG.

From MR. HORATIO BOTTOMLEY, M.P.:

"You may certainly give me as a reference as to the remarkable qualities of BRAININE. Most of my clerks now take it regularly, as well as myself—and I think we get through more work than any other office in London AND ARE NEVER TIRED. Why don't you advertise it?"

From a Leading Hospital Nurse:—

"Under doctor's orders I am now using BRAININE *when on duty, and the effect is really wonderful. Most of my 'convalescents' take it—and are loud in its praise."*

Hitherto, our sales have been effected by purely private means. Now we are taking a special factory for the manufacture of BRAININE—and we hope that before long it will be on sale in every chemist's shop in the Kingdom. At present, we are quite unable to cope with the demand.

BRAININE is perfectly harmless and free from poison. It may be taken by the strong and the delicate alike, and by persons of either sex. *It is of special value to clerks, and all persons having to deal with figures; to lecturers teachers and pupils.* It is no quack medicine, being prepared from the prescription of an eminent physician, who has made a special study of the brain.

Brainine Goes Straight to the Brain.

In the past, the medical profession has been at sea in regard to the most prevalent complaint of the twentieth century—"*Nerves.*"

They have treated the *Nerves*—that is to say, the electric wires—instead of the *Brain*—that is to say, the BATTERY. That has been the big mistake.

It may be taken for granted that with the ever-increasing rush and bustle of modern life "Nerves"—irritability, "worry," insomnia—will become an ever-growing complaint. The drain on the Brain is twenty times greater to-day than it was fifty years ago; and if it is to stand the strain, THE BATTERY MUST BE RECHARGED FROM TIME TO TIME.

THAT is the great virtue of BRAININE. It is useless to tinker with the nerves, if the source of all their activity—the Brain—is "below par." When the battery is low the current must run out. BRAININE recharges the Brain.

BRAININE is sold in boxes at 1s. 1½d.—*post free* to any address in the United Kingdom.

If any difficulty is experienced in obtaining BRAININE from your chemist or local store, please cut out this coupon and post direct, with remittance.

To THE BRAININE COMPANY, 23-28, Fleet Street, London, E.C.

Please forward me a supply of BRAININE, for which I enclose 1s. 1½d.

Name .....

Address (in full) .....

State whether Mr., Mrs., or Miss .....

The Brainine Company, 23 to 28, Fleet Street, London, E.C.

THE DRAMA OF TO-DAY.

By CLEMENT SCOTT.

"BELLA DONNA"

A success? Yes! But one of curiosity only—doomed, I fear, to bitter disappointment! Unevenly balanced, strangely miscast, and with persistently unEastern-like atmosphere pervading all, Mr. Bernard Fagan has sought to dramatise one of Robert Hichens' best novels, without taking into consideration that the whole effect of the book was obtained by wondrous pen-drawn pictures of the scenes Mr. Hichens has depicted so skilfully of a country he has lived near. Can anyone imagine a woman of Mrs. Patrick Campbell's Oriental beauty, her magnetic-ism her queenly grace—a woman so fascinating and alluring that she has been known to the world she moves in as "Bella Donna" for years—falling in love with—I apologise for saying it—so fragile and small a man as Mr. Charles Maude? The entire scheme is missed by the Hon. Nigel Armine's insignificant appearance. What does anyone care for the fate of this little person? Nigel is constantly being alluded to as a big, strong fellow. Thus, from the outstart, the whole point is lost, for you cannot bring yourself to believe in Mrs. Chepstow's love for Nigel, and once having married him, he is so very amiable so characterless and weak, that there is no sense in the lady trying to poison so harmless a creature; she could have hoodwinked him as often as she pleased and carried on with a dozen Baroudis—Nigel would never have known. The suggestion which is made in the second act that Mrs. Armine has simply married her husband because he was heir to a title falls ridiculously flat and tame. Why not, for successful dramatic results, have made Nigel a splendid young officer in the Guards—there would have been some interest in the affair then, and both Mrs. Campbell and Dr. Isaacson might have had a better chance for acting? As it is, the pivot of the story is missing, and there is nothing for them to weave their nets around. Mr. Hichens' book is full of masterly characterisation; Mr. Fagan's dramatisation is denuded of it. The people come on, they talk, they go off again, and never make the slightest impression. The appearance of Mrs. Patrick Campbell is superb. Her figure is so commanding—you see little of her face, everything is so dark—that it is impossible to imagine her falling a victim to so unimpassioned a lover as Charles Bryant.

OUR "BISCUIT" PRIZES.

A SPLENDID EDUCATIONAL EXERCISE FOR CHILDREN.

We have decided to award a Prize of One Guinea for the cleverest explanation of ANY THREE *of the current week's "Biscuits"—that is to say, the smartest reason why the "Biscuits" were awarded. We shall also give a second prize of half-a-guinea and ten consolation prizes of 5s. each. Any child of a* JOHN BULL *reader—whether boy or girl—up to fourteen years of age, may enter. Answers must be short and to the point, and written clearly, and each set of three must be accompanied by the coupon which will be found printed below. Competitors may make as many attempts as they like, providing a coupon is attached to each set of answers. Each "Biscuit" is numbered, so that all competitors have to do is to number their replies to correspond with the "Biscuits" selected. The age of the competitor will be taken into consideration, so that every child has an equal opportunity of winning. Answers must be received, in envelopes marked in left-hand corner "Biscuit," not later than the first post on Thursday morning, and the result will be announced in our next issue.*

BISCUIT PRIZE COUPON.

Competitor's Name .....

Address .....

.....

Age .....

BARGAINS IN

SECOND-HAND FURNITURE.

TO BE SOLD PRIVATELY BY

The NEWMAN & OXFORD STREET FURNITURE & ANTIQUE DEPOSITORIES (Ltd.),

92, 93, & 94, NEWMAN STREET, OXFORD STREET, W.

The following goods having been removed from Holland Road, Kensington; Glenheim Mansions, Lisson Grove; Summerville Road, Thurloe Place; Ditton; Maddox Street, W.; Goldhurst Terrace, Hampstead; Westcliff, St. Leonards-on-Sea; Theobald's Park, and elsewhere, are offered at less than the original cost, and comprise, amongst other articles too numerous to mention, the following general household effects. Bedroom furniture—6 oak bedroom suites, from £4 15s.; 3 white enamelled bedroom suites, from £4 4s.; 5 solid oak bedroom suites, with large wardrobe and dressing table, with side cheval glasses, £5 17s. 6d.; walnut bedroom suite, toilet mirror to dressing table, £8 8s.; an inlaid Sheraton design mahogany bedroom suite, £7 17s. 6d.; a similar suite, £10 15s.; 4 ft. to 6 in. inlaid Sheraton design bedroom suite, oval glass door to wardrobe, 12 guineas; 4 ft. inlaid Sheraton design bedroom suite, with Beaconsfield wardrobe, £15 10s.; 5 ft. mahogany bedroom suite, with 2 oval doors to wardrobe, rolex mirrors to dressing table, 19 guineas; 6 ft. inlaid Sheraton design bedroom suite, fitted drawers and trays, 24 guineas; 6 ft. Louis design mahogany bedroom suite, 28 guineas; 6 ft. walnut bedroom suite, 40 guineas; 7 ft. inlaid Sheraton design bedroom suite, with bow front to wardrobe, 60 guineas; 7 ft. satinwood bedroom suite, 10 guineas; several inlaid chests, from 50s.; 6 ft. walnut wardrobe, 15 guineas; 6 ft. 6 in. mahogany wardrobe, fitted drawers and trays, 12 guineas; several iron bedsteads, from 9s.; black and brass bedsteads, 10s.; full size black and brass bedsteads, with wire springs, 21s.; 9 oak bedsteads, 15s.; pair brass twin bedsteads, 5 guineas; pair white and brass twin bedsteads, 3 guineas; inlaid Sheraton bedstead, including wire spring mattress, £3 15s.; full size all brass bedstead, 60s.; pair mahogany twin bedsteads, £2 19s. 6d.; full size all brass square tube Italian bedstead, 8 guineas, and several others up to 18 guineas. The Dining Room furniture comprises fumed oak dining room suite, consisting of large size sideboard, 6 chairs, 2 carving chairs, overmantel, dining table, rug, etc., will accept £13 7s. 6d. the lot; most massive carved oak Elizabethan design dining room set, consisting of sideboard with bevelled plate glass back, oxydised copper fittings, fitted cellarette, 6 massive carved oak chairs, and 2 carving chairs to match, dining table, 16 guineas the set; a similar set, with large sideboard and 2 lounge easy chairs, upholstered in red leather, 25 guineas; magnificent oak dining room suite, £8 15s.; oak suite, in green pegamoid, £3 19s. 6d.; sideboard to match, 4 guineas; overmantel, 30s.; Queen Anne design dining room suite, £5 15s.; sideboard to match, £7 15s.; dining table, £2 15s.; handsome Queen Anne design mahogany dining room set, upholstered in red leather, £7 15s. 6d. dining table to match, 4 guineas; Chippendale design set of chairs, ball and claw feet, exquisite design, 12 guineas; oak, walnut and mahogany sideboards, large variety in stock, from £4 10s. to 40 guineas; about 50 odd dining room chairs; 20 dining tables, from 21s.; oak bureau, 25s.; pedestal writing tables; roll top desks, all sizes; revolving bookcases; a most superb Chesterfield, and 2 large club easy chairs to match in green leather, £15 10s.; mahogany secretaire bookcase, enclosed by 2 glass doors, cupboards, under 8 guineas. The Drawing Room furniture comprises very fine drawing room suite, upholstered in art tapestry, £3 10s.; another design suite, £6 10s.; satinwood finish drawing room suite, 7 guineas; an elegant design Louis XIV. gilt drawing room suite, £19 10s.; another set, similar design, 14 guineas.; Chesterfield drawing room suite, with 2 large lounge easy chairs, and 4 solid mahogany chairs, most exquisite design, £12 10s. 6d.; large size double sprung Chesterfield and 2 large easy chairs to match, covered in silk tapestry, 22 guineas; set of Dutch Marqueterie chairs, 14 guineas; handsome design Vernis Marten cabinet, 16 guineas; another, 12 guineas; Buhl cabinet, 11 guineas; another, 14 guineas; table en suite, 8 guineas; Chesterfields, from £3 10s. to 10 guineas; Chippendale design cabinet, £2 19s. 6d.; similar one, £5 15s.; Sheraton design cabinet, £3 15s.; Sheraton design specimen table, 50s.; occasional tables, from 12s. 6d.; occasional chairs, 50 in stock, from 7s. 6d., 2 white enamel over-mantels, 18s. 6d. and 27s. 6d.; oval gilt table, 10 guineas; pair 9-light candelabra, 6 guineas; 5-light candelabra, 10 guineas; clock in ormulu case, £8 15s.; piano, 8 guineas; an upright piano, iron frame, £12 15s.; ditto, by Carl Strauss, 20 guineas; and several others in stock up to 40 guineas; grand pianos by Steinway, Beckstein, Bluthner, etc. Large stock of carpets, Tapestry, Mirzapore, Turkey, and Oriental carpets and rugs to match, from 18s. 6d.; a large variety of Axminster and Wilton carpets, always in stock, from £2 10s. Hall furniture—Hall stands, from 20s.; hall cupboard, 3 guineas; large quantity of electro-plate, china, cutlery, kitchen utensils, curtains, bed and table linen, etc.

Country buyers should call and inspect these goods. All goods delivered Town or Country free of charge, or can remain stored 12 months free of charge. All goods can be seen where they are now lying for the convenience of sale, any day from 9 till 9, except Saturday, when we close at 7 o'clock, at

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BULL'S EYES.

NOTES OF INTERROGATION:—
Doesn't the Insurance Bill want some "saving" clauses?
Will the Unionists long prove a Law-abiding community?
Hasn't the Naval "Prize" Bill proved a "blank"?
Is the Secretaryship of the Board of Education a "Bigge" job?
Isn't it proving an East End "battle"-ship?
Is "Line Clear" a safe railway signal yet?
Are the big cocoa manufacturers no longer "Quakers"?
Don't some folk speak of the Censor's ass-istant?
Must we call him the Gay-kwar of Baroda?
Isn't Mr. Philip Snowden a master of "bomb"-ast?
Was the term "slated" originated by Slate Clubs?
Aren't the Lords becoming rather "wreck"-less?

"JOHN BULL'S" CHRISTMAS BOXES:—
To Mr. Asquith,—A baron honour.
To Winston Churchill,—A big broom.
To John Redmond,—A "Rule" with exceptions.
To Sir Edward Grey,—A "Bull" and "Bear" difficulty.
To John Burns,—An alarm clock.
To the M.C.C. Team,—"Dust" and "ashes."
To Persia,—A copy of Smiles' "Self Help."
To Dr. Owen,—A bit of overdone Bacon.
To the Suffragettes,—A discourse on "Pains and Penalties."
To the Prudential,—An obscure retreat.
To the British Slavey,—A threepenny "stamp."
To the Rev. Silvester Horne,—A treatise on "Pagan Rites."
To King Manoel,—Change for a crown.
To Sir Robert Morant,—More ingredients for a "hash."
To Italy,—A slice of Turkey.
To Mr. Bonar Law,—A "Dizzy" position.
To the Bishop of London,—A rattle and a set of infantry.
To Mrs. Pethick Lawrence,—Some precious stones.
To the Censor,—A blush-rose.
To the German Crown Prince,—A cane.
To the Rev. F. B. Meyer,—A medlar.
To Mr. P. F. Warner,—An "ash" tray.
To the Lord Mayor,—A book on old sports.
To Mr. Runciman,—A spade and pail.
To the Kaiser,—"The straight tip," bound in morocco.
To Jack Johnson,—A ring and a *Punch*.
To Mr. A. J. Balfour,—A tea-caddy.
To Dean Inge,—A ticket to Brighton.

A Mr. Locke is to be the new Governor of Exeter Prison. Rather smart of the authorities to pick a Locke.

A school for lovers has been opened in Berlin. The scholars, of course, will get their lessons by heart.

A sleeve pocket for ladies is the latest. But they have kept things up there for ages past.

"Prison for Writing Poems," reads a headline. We agree that poets should be "shut up."

General French says the quality of the Territorials has improved. But what about the quantity?

A correspondent asks what we think of Miss Maud Allan's stage costumes. Not much.

A school for detectives has been opened in New York. In future the men will really speak "from information received."

Ballet-girls at the Paris Opera House are now forbidden to wear jewellery on the stage. But they *must* wear something!

"Genius has always declared itself and always compelled recognition," says Mrs. Charles Brookfield. Now, of course, we understand some recent appointments.

A young girl vocalist made her *debut* dressed as a Quaker. Rather neat.

"Kaiser stops a race," we read. But not the English race.
To Our Readers,—The Glad Hand—and eye.

Readers of this paper will doubtless be interested to learn that the prize-winning illustration is Mr. Aston, who holds the position of "Britain's Strongest Man," charmingly illustrates the condition of health and Strength his system of exercises can bring a man. The Mr. Aston won the above title from various notables, proved beyond doubt the system. In order to prove that it is not the case of another man, Mr. Aston one particular man, and make him a his weight, by means of these same Pullum, of Camberwell, volunteered, and that this young man was at one despaired of by the medical pro- in less than six months under Mr. personal tuition he became the est man in the world at 8st. 10lbs. Mr. Aston is willing to prove to any reader of JOHN BULL the efficiency of his system of exercises, not only in the acquisition of Great Strength, but also for the cure of such ailments as indigestion, constipation, loss of vigour, and such health troubles as deprive men who should be healthy, of the proper enjoyment of life. He will, in fact, make himself your responsible physical adviser. In order that readers may test his method of obtaining perfect health or greater strength, Mr. Aston will forward a sample sheet of exercises for which he has specially prepared, and from which readers may test the great benefits to be obtained. On receipt of 8½d. you will also receive his autograph photo and fine tape measure. State distinctly whether you require betterment of health or greater strength, and send at once to

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RACING NOTES.

By W. LOTINGA.

[*"Larry Lynx" of* THE PEOPLE, *"Double L." of* LOTINGA'S WEEKLY, *and "Magpie" of* THE GLOBE.]

Medley.

There has been such a prevalence of welshing lately that something must be done, and I am glad to hear that there is a prospect of some united and joint action among commission agents.

Whatever may be said as to the advisability of bookmakers owning racehorses, there is not a shadow of doubt that, taken generally, the horses of fielders are run very much straighter than those belonging to most of the patrician aristocrats.

There has been a good deal of trickery in regard to the bandages which boxers use and the material of which some of them were formerly made, for, after getting moistened, they formed into a hard plaster, almost like a thin sheet of steel.

It would surely better become those associated with the church who have been crying out against legitimate harmless boxing, to raise their voices with much greater justification against the massacres in and around Tripoli, of which we are obviously learning only an infinitesimal part.

Most of our readers will have noticed the new little feature in *Lotinga's Weekly*, which is merely evidence that we are always on the *qui vive* and desirous of studying the interest of our followers when possible. The new little notes headed "Horses that are Nearing the Winning Post," will, during the jumping season, provide many and many a winner.

My Charity Football Match was a huge success, 10,000 people being present to see a great game. Many of the jockeys and the champion athletes are "nibs" at footer, whilst the presence of Lord Lonsdale, who kicked off, and many of the leading sportsmen as linesmen capped a great occasion, the receipts approximating £600. Who else but sportsmen would do this for charity?

What a contrast between the controllers of football and racing as regards Press photographers. The Secretary of the Football Association, in dealing with the subject of the unquestionable inconvenience caused by a large number of photographers being on the field of play, endeavours to meet the difficulty by inviting the opinions of those most concerned. The Association appreciate the help which is given by the Press in popularising the game, and are anxious for every possible and reasonable facility for taking pictures of matches. Through their Secretary, the popular F. J. Wall, the Football Association invite suggestions to enable them to deal, satisfactorily to all, with these perplexing questions. This is indeed an example to the controllers of other branches of English sport.

Prophetic.

Only the last day at Newbury this afternoon (Thursday), and then the holiday meetings to forecast for. Subject to what has happened whilst these notes are in the press, I think FLYING LORIS will win the Andover Steeplechase, or if kept for Kempton, the Sunbury Handicap there. On Boxing Day, also governed by interim results, FOP is the pick of the Hurdle Handicap, but assuming that he has been beaten or won at Newbury, substitute Master Mine. FIREBALL will win the Richmond Maiden Plate, whilst on the Tuesday, the danger to the unlucky EXELITE in the Shepperton Steeplechase is Lord Chatham.

At Hooton Park, FERDITH will find the company more to her liking than at Sandown.

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FOOTBALL!

Send a 1d. postcard for the most liberal price list issued. Every Match in the English, Southern, and Scotch Leagues to pick from.

£25 *FREE OFFER open to all Clients.*

The "Mirror of Life" for Oct. 22nd says :—

"Messrs. H. Hamilton & Co. have won for themselves an exceptional reputation for prompt payments, and we have no hesitation in recommending the Firm as a thoroughly reliable one."

Our Football Annual sent free on mentioning this paper.

H. HAMILTON & Co., Basle, Switzerland.

FOOTBALL

THE SPORTSMAN, July 14, 1911, says :

"BERT FRY, one of the best known of the Flushing Turf Accountants, has removed his offices to Basle, Switzerland."

BERT FRY, BALE 2, SWITZERLAND

JOHN BULL says :—Every week we are inundated with complaints from people who have been defrauded by bogus football accountants. To a very great extent it serves them right, as instead of accepting fictitious odds offered them by strangers they could entrust their business to a reliable firm like that of BERT FRY: and be sure of receiving their winnings.

Special Half Time Sheet. £50 Free Prize Weekly.
Free Postage.

WILLIAM BARNES, FOOTBALL TOTALISATOR,

LUCERNE, SWITZERLAND.

Some Tote-Odds paid Saturday, Dec. 2nd.

20/1 against 5 Home Teams; 30/1 6 H. T.; 14/1 3 Away Teams; 23/1 4 A. T.; 5/1 1 Draw; 17/1 2 d., 82/1 3 d., 18/1 1 H. and 3 A.; 25/1 2 H. and 3 A.; 24/1 3 H. and 2 A.; 22/1 4 H. and 1 A.; 47/1 4 H. and 2 A.; 28/1 5 H. and 1 A.; 65/1 5 H. and 2 A.; 66/1 6 H. and 1 A.; 109/1 6H. and 2 A.; 14/1 1 H. and 1 Dr.; 16/1 2 H. and 1 Dr.; 19/1 3 H. and 1 Dr.; 25/1 1 H. and 1 Dr.

Tote-book sent free on application.

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HAVE BEEN LAID AND PAID ON OCTOBER 7th.

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FOOTBALL CHAT, Nov. 22, 1911, Says: "Established firms of repute such as Messrs White, Fisher and Co. conduct their business with a scrupulous fairness and impartiality that could well provide an object lesson to many commercial houses."

Plenty of Money to be Made during the
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Simple in its use and action—one can carry out the treatment in one's own private room—without trouble or inconvenience of any kind.

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In Eight Standard Shades:—Black, Dark Brown, Medium Brown, Chestnut, Golden Chestnut, Light Golden Chestnut, Golden, Light Golden.

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The following claims have been received for our issues of October 14th and November 11th:—

SERGT. G. NEWMAN, 1st York and Regiment, British Barracks, Khartoum, Sudan. No. 75,681. October 14th.

JOHN RICHARDS, 3, Tomlinson Street, Eccles, near Manchester. No. 174,536. November 11th.

D. J. WILLS, 58, Galbraith Street, Cubitt Town, Poplar, E. No. 359,199. November 11th.

S. G. APPERLEY, High Grove, Barton Street, Gloucester. No. 73,162. November 11th.

The following are the fifty numbers for the issue of November 25th:—

3473	169703	363119	552793	679854
15628	176055	384709	564574	682779
40131	191593	412112	571269	708138
55282	228811	437030	599855	739849
83324	239909	449958	612755	754382
100859	254878	477514	625798	768244
115885	273681	498079	645772	779515
131837	303415	508705	653295	832477
151807	328346	527634	667510	840405
152791	345871	544147	671765	855805

THE FIFTY NUMBERS IN RESPECT OF THIS WEEK WILL BE ANNOUNCED IN OUR ISSUE DATED JANUARY 20TH (PUBLISHED JANUARY 18TH).

The John Bull League.

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The General Secretary,
93, Long Acre, London, W.C.

Please enrol me as a Member and send me a Membership Badge, for which I enclose P.O. for 6d.

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I will send you my 5/- Magneto Belt for 1/-

It will make you strong, vigorous, and self-confident in everything.

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If you are run down and want a quick and ready means of regaining your natural health and vigour, of increasing your vitality and making yourself both bodily and mentally fit and strong, send at once for one of my Magneto Belts; thousands are wearing them to-day and gaining new life and fresh vigour.

Medical Men and Hospitals recognise Magnetism as a most effective curative power in cases of nervous Debility, Loss of Vital Nerve and Muscular Strength, Weak Back, Disordered Liver, Kidney Trouble, Indigestion, Obesity, Constipation, Dizziness, Lack of Energy, Melancholia, Sleeplessness, Loss of Will Power, Want of Self-Confidence, Lack of Mind Concentration, Involuntary Blushing, etc., etc.

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Don't Stay Weak.

I KNOW THAT I CAN MAKE YOU STRONG.

Although you may now be depressed and lacking in vigour and confidence, you can be free from weakness and be the mental and physical equal of anyone of your age. The Vital Power which you need will be poured into your system by my Magneto Belt of Life. By the Laws of Nature you should be strong, active and healthy until you are eighty. If you are weak, nervous, and debilitated, get new power, new life, new vigour into you by wearing a Magneto Belt.

I INVITE EVERY SUFFERER to try my Magneto Belt of Life. The price is not £5 but 5s. (five shillings) by easy payments. My Belt is sent on seven days' trial immediately on receipt of 1s. deposit. After you receive the Belt you pay me the balance of 4s., or at the rate of 1s. weekly, whilst actually wearing it.

From Laindon a correspondent writes:—"When I purchased your Belt of Life I fully intended returning it to you in seven days' time if it did me no good. Imagine my surprise when I found that from the very first moment of wearing it it was doing me good. It has given new life and strength, and I would not part with it for any money."

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"Your Magneto Belt worked wonders [illegible] writes a delighted patient from Aldersh[illegible] six years younger since wearing it. I am [illegible] both bodily and mentally improved."

"Your Belt is honestly worth £5, although [illegible] cost 5s.," writes a well-known athlete from [illegible].

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